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Calgary metro

Your essential daily news | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2016

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Farewell to the world's most famous mayor

Rob Ford: 1969-2016

A man is wounded in Brussels Airport in Belgium, after explosions were heard Tuesday.
KETEVAN KARDAVA/GEORGIAN PUBLIC BROADCASTER VIA AP

What now?

• Lockdown • Manhunt • Mourning

ATTACK ON BRUSSELS metroNEWS

THE 2016 FEDERAL BUDGET

Calgary transit, housing getting boost from feds

Mayor says budget puts city 'on path' to keep building

Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

For a city that is ready to build infrastructure, Tuesday's budget brought lots of good news.

"I've been saying for some time the best thing governments can do in this economic downturn is to keep building, and this federal budget gets us on the path towards keeping building," said Mayor Naheed Nenshi.

He said the stimulus spending is predicted to boost the country's GDP by one per cent, which the mayor called a big deal, especially for Alberta, which needs a boost.

On affordable housing, the Trudeau Liberals are promising to double the current funding in the Affordable Housing Initiative.

It will amount to half a billion dollars over two years, and promises to be flexible — something federal funding is not usually known for.

Calgary's federal funding for the Green Line is already locked down, but there's an additional $347 million for Alberta to invest in transit projects over three years — and Calgary is sure to see a fair portion of that cash.

The price tag for deficit-averse Albertans isn't pretty. The deficit is now running at $29 billion for this year alone, with the promise of more to come.

Premier Rachel Notley called the deficit "understandable" because the initiatives are to bolster the economy.

"The budget measures will get the economy moving now and also help establish sustainable long-term growth," she said.

More coverage, metroNEWS

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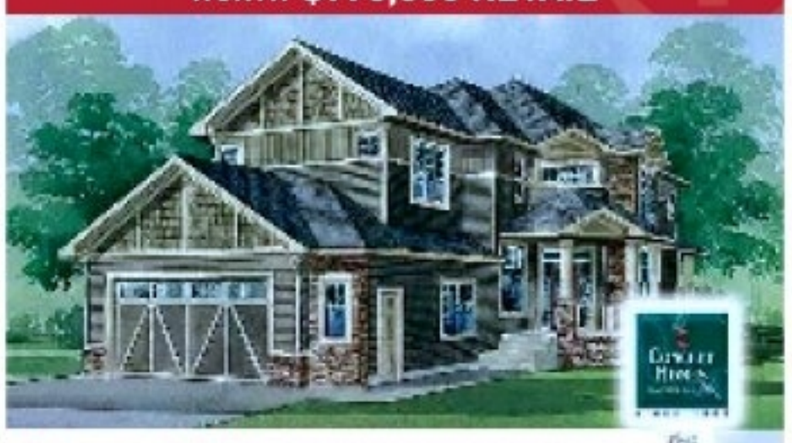

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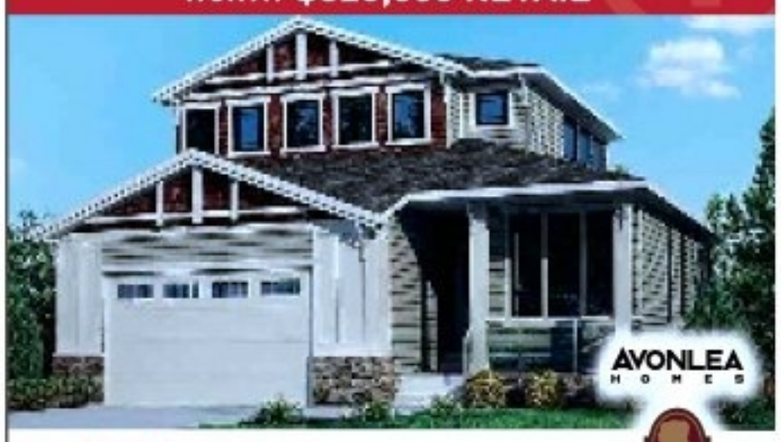

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TERRORIST ATTACK ON BRUSSELS

‘There’s a lot of solidarity’

Calgarian in Belgium says locals stepped up to help others

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

There was a nervous energy on the streets of Brussels on Tuesday, but according to Calgarian Kirsten Poole, there was also the distinct feeling of solidarity.

Poole, who works for Save the Children as the Europe Aid Partnership Assistant in Brussels, said following the deadly Belgium bombings Tuesday morning, people stepped up immediately to help others.

“There’s a lot of solidarity,” she said. “Taxi drivers were offering to drive people for free who weren’t able to get home and people from other offices were emailing each other to make sure everyone was OK and accounted for.”

Poole, who has lived in Brussels for a year, said she was on the subway at the time of the attacks, heading to her office near the European Commission.

“I didn’t hear or see anything,” she said. “Once I arrived at the office we made sure all of our staff were accounted for and remained under lockdown as all transport was suspended.”

Although Poole knew about the airport bomb while riding on the subway, she hadn’t realized there were other attacks as well until she got to work.

“I don’t think I was as scared as I may have been otherwise,” she said.

Kirsten Poole has been living in Brussels for a year. CONTRIBUTED

> **Taxi drivers were offering to drive people for free.**
> Kirsten Poole

Poole said due to the time difference her family and friends back in Calgary were sleeping at the time, so she was able to ease their worries.

“I texted them pre-emptively,” she said. “So, it was a bit mitigated.”

She said she hopes these attacks don’t negatively impact European Union member states’ policies towards asylum seekers.

“Violence is the same whether you’re in Syria or Belgium,” she said. “While I feel lucky that I had the safety net of support from emergency services, not everyone does, and it’s important that we keep supporting those that need it.”

+ SECURITY RESPONSE

More police present in Calgary International Airport

The Calgary police are stepping up their presence at the Calgary International Airport following the attacks in Brussels.

A Calgary Police Service spokesman has confirmed there are additional uniformed members at the airport, but said there is no active or known threat to the airport – the additional members are purely there as a precaution.

Calgary Transit officials also made sure there was increased visible presence on public transit today. METRO

EDUCATION

No change in schools’ trip plans

The Calgary Board of Education is standing by their decision to go ahead with international travel and have confirmed that CBE students are currently on trips in Italy and China.

After terror attacks last fall in France the CBE made the decision to cancel all trips heading to France. After bombings in Brussels Tuesday, the CBE said there are no trips in or planned for Belgium this year.

“At this time, we are not making any changes to our international travel plans,” they said in a statement to Metro.

> **Student safety is always our priority.**
> Calgary Board of Education

“Student safety is always our priority. The CBE has rigorous processes and procedures in place regarding international travel. We continually monitor travel advisories for all student trip destinations, and as always, we will respond to any changes.”

Joy Bowen-Eyre, CBE board of trustees chair said the CBE took their public engagement that took place in late 2015 into the matter very seriously.

“We committed in the fall, when we did our engagement, to review any and all trips, and if there was any concerns, that we would look at them,” she said.

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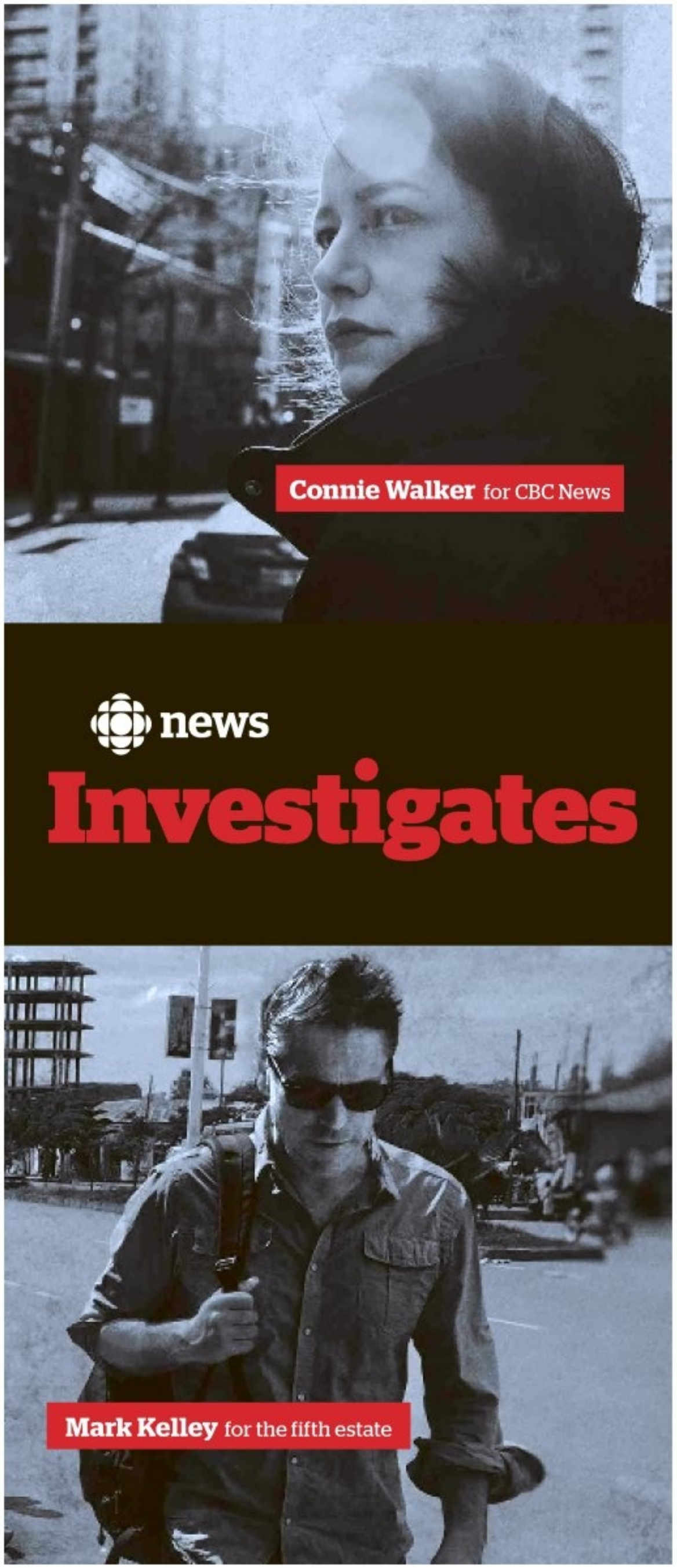


Progressive Conservative Prab Gill's Calgary Greenway win suggests the PC brand still holds true.
JEREMY SIMES/FOR METRO

PC's Prab Gill wins Calgary Greenway

BYELECTION

Unite-the-right movement likely to die: MRU prof

Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

Old habits appear to die hard for Calgary Greenway voters, possibly axing any chance for Alberta's two conservative parties to unite.

On Tuesday night, voters in the riding held by former PC MLA Manmeet Bhullar decided they're a fan of maintaining Bhullar's legacy and the PC Brand, electing Progressive Conservative Prab Gill to join the third-party benches.

Largely centering on job creation platforms, the Wildrose, Progressive Conservatives, NDP and Liberals put their full weight behind the campaign.

After 56 of 67 of polls reporting, Gill had 1,945 votes, nearly ahead of his nearest rival, the Wildrose's Devinder Toor, who had 1,688 votes.

Following them was the NDP's Roop Rai with 1,291 votes and then to the Liberals' 1,083.

Gill's campaign manager Mandeep Shergill said Gill will carry on the legacy of Bhullar.

"We will listen to every voice," he said. "Thank you so much to the volunteers."

60

60 polls of 67 reporting

PC - 28.92%
WRP - 24.85%
LIB - 19.82%
NDP - 20.14%

With the PC win, Mount Royal political science professor Duane Bratt said the Tories likely don't need a boost from the Wildrose.

He said these results will squash the dreams of many conservatives who want to unite the right.

"That's not going to happen," he said.

Bratt said the result is a testament to Manmeet Bhullar's legacy.

"That definitely helped, but I'm sure the PCs will make it known that this win was also a win for the party itself," he said.

Devinder Toor said his party made tremendous progress.

"Tonight, we came just short of our goal. I don't even know how to begin thanking all the volunteers, my family and friends who helped on our campaign," he said.

"Never in my life have I worked with such a special group of dedicated men and women working to see change in their province."

The NDP's Rai said she's proud of the campaign she ran.

"Unfortunately tonight's result aren't what we hoped for, but I'm incredibly proud of the campaign we've run," she said.

"Hundreds of volunteers engaged thousands of voters at the doorstep, and we're going to continue to build towards good jobs and a better economy in Calgary Greenway."

For the PCs, Gill will become the party's ninth MLA in the legislature.

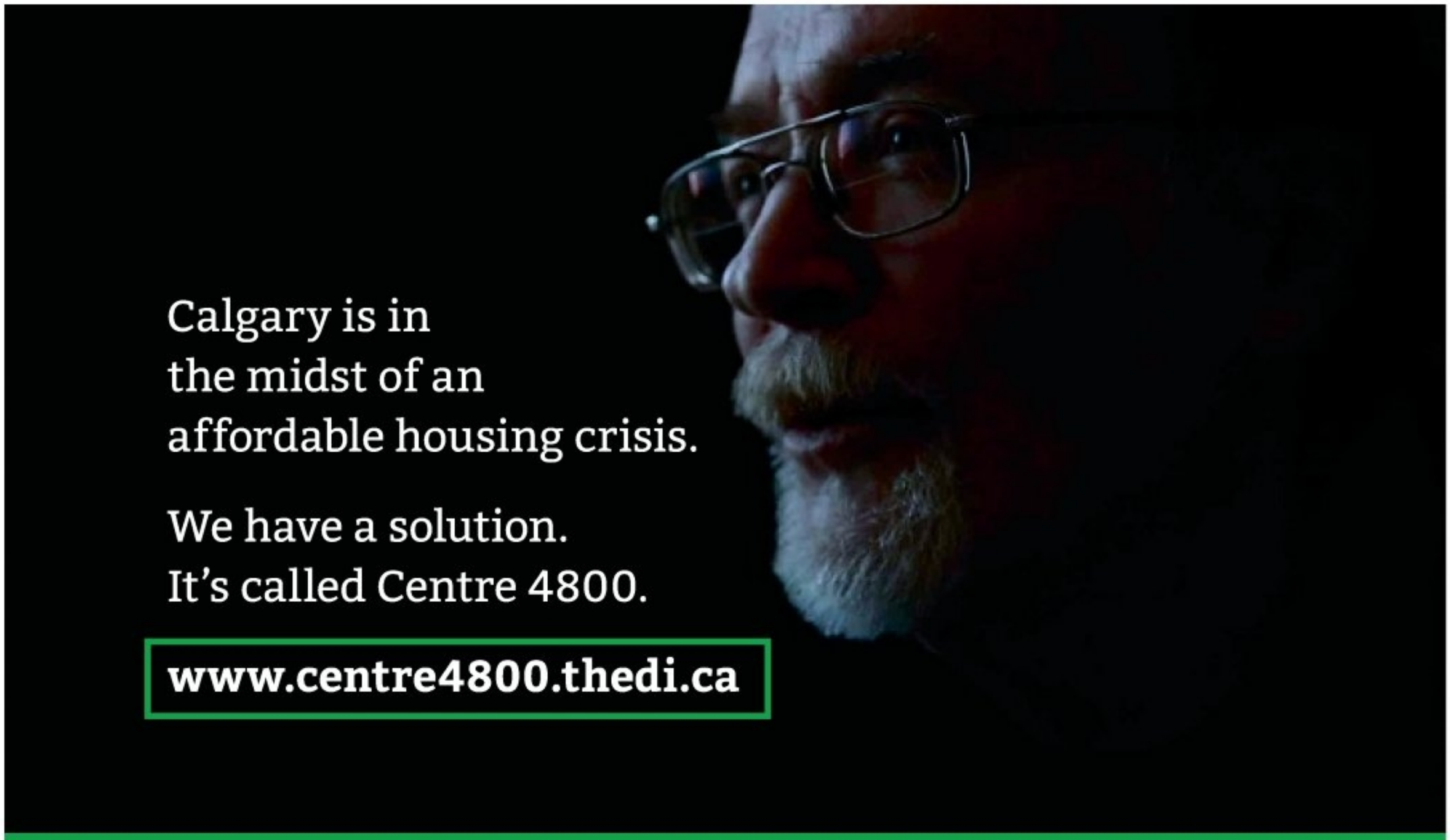
VOTER TURNOUT

Despite a hot contested race, numerous controversies and former PC MLA Manmeet Bhullar's popularity, most Calgary Greenway constituents didn't feel obligated to make their voices heard.

After 54 of 67 polls reporting, only 6,257 of Calgary Greenway's 28,298 registered voters decided to vote.

Duane Bratt, mount royal political science professor, called the turnout abysmal.

He said voter turnout is traditionally low in the area, but Greenway's turnout was much below that.



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Here are a few quick facts

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Centre 4800 will be a home for Calgarians in need of long-term supportive housing, as well as families, seniors, and members of the general public. It will not be a homeless or emergency shelter.

70+

Community consultation activities have been held, and feedback has shaped this project from the ground up.

We want to get this right, and are committed to working with our neighbours.

City sees fewer traffic jams

TRAFFIC INDEX

Economy, mild weather may be behind this: Analyst

Stephanie Joe
For Metro | Calgary

The downturn has had a trickle-down effect on traffic, suggests an analyst from the TomTom GPS system. METRO FILE

Mild winter temperatures and a dwindling economy are behind a decrease in Calgary's traffic congestion, according to a GPS traffic index.

Calgary placed ninth for the highest traffic congestion in the country. However, overall congestion in the city decreased by three per cent from 2014 to 2015.

The TomTom traffic index is an annual report that details cities around the world with the most traffic congestion.

Nick Cohn, TomTom's senior traffic expert, said that he believes the decrease is due to better winter weather and the economic downturn.

"The number of people on the roads going to work (is lower)," he said.

Another reason that Calgary has improved its rating is that Calgary has put urban mobility high on the agenda, he said.

"Calgary has a very successful rail, park and ride system and I'm sure that has a measurable effect," said Cohn.

Ward 12 Coun. Shane Keating believes that improving public transit or changing roadways will help.

"If we put an HOV on the Deerfoot, I think that would motivate individuals coming from that area (to use it)," said Keating.

"The really big thing the city needs to do is get more accessible public transit."

"I think the numbers coming from bikes and pedestrians won't be enough to change [road congestion in Calgary]."

TomTom's Cohn suggests that commuters do pre-trip planning before heading out, to minimize time in traffic.

"One of the main reasons of this report is that we want to get travellers to think about how they could change their daily patterns," said Cohn. "There's no road authority or transport authority."

HEALTH CARE

Midwife dilemma

Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

NDP MLA Marie Renaud said she's not ready to say what she'll do if midwifery practices close — she's hopes they stay open.

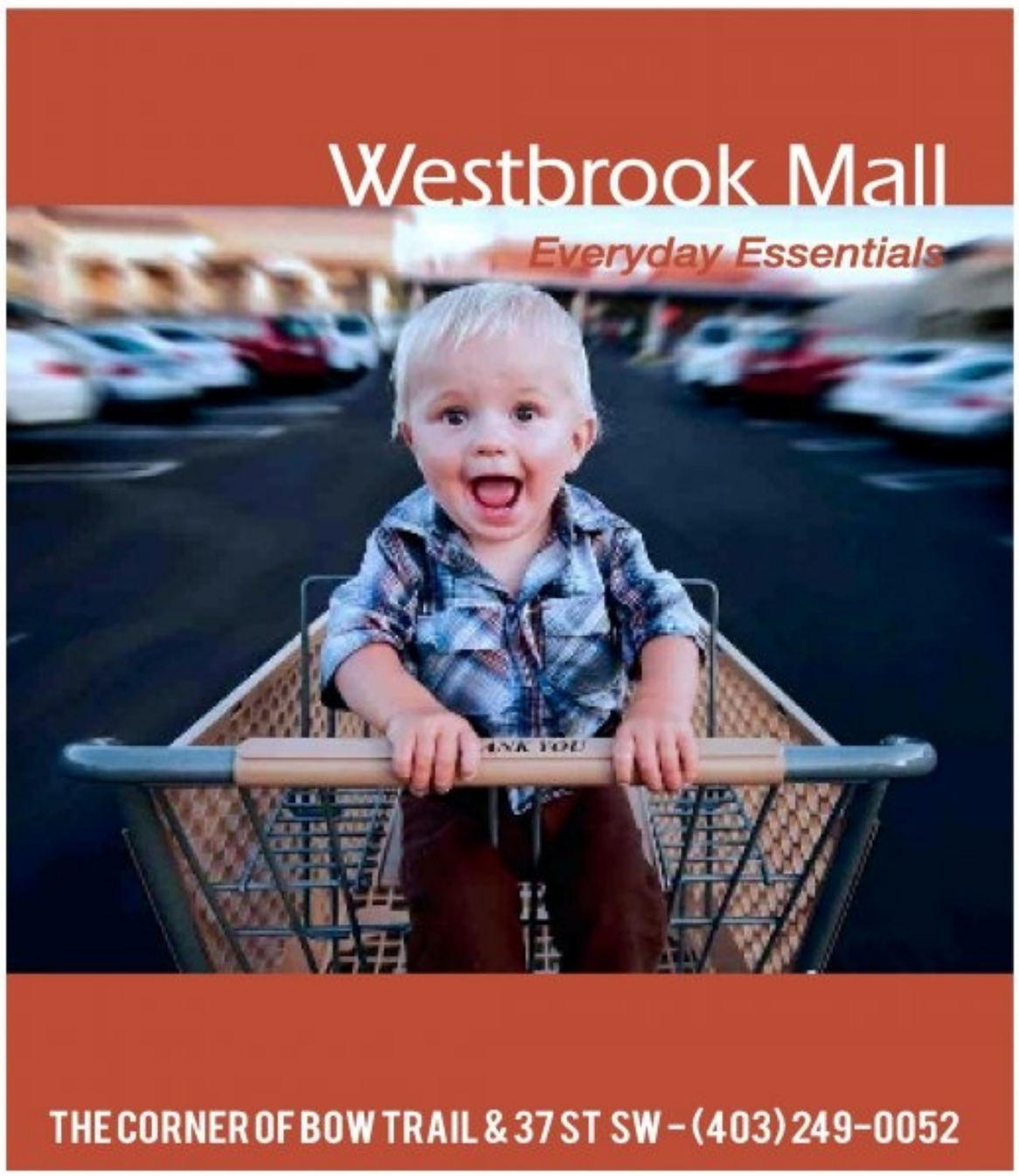
On Monday, Health Minister Sarah Hoffman indicated more pregnancies supported by provincially funded midwives will be available come April.

But Sunday, three midwifery practices specializing in vulnerable and rural populations announced they're closing due to how Alberta Health Services decided to allocate funds.

Renaud — whose riding will see its lone midwife practice close — said it's up to the government to see midwifery further funded.

AHS' Dave Bilan, interim vice-president of collaborative practice with nursing and health professions, said the health authority looks forward to working with the government to increase midwifery care.

He said courses of care are allocated according to obstetrician access, rural and under-served areas and vulnerable populations.



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EDUCATION

CBE struggling to fund Syrian students

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

Since January, the Calgary Board of Education has welcome 427 new students into the system — but has received no additional funding.

"If you can imagine, 427 students is the equivalent of one elementary school," said Joy Bowen-Eyre, chair of the CBE Board of Trustees. "So, we're not getting funded for a full elementary school of students that have arrived on our doorstep."

Bowen-Eyre said the school board only gets per-student funding for students as of Sept. 30 of last year. She said every student that comes into the system beyond that is an additional cost they're not getting any funding for.

"The need is very high," said Bowen-Eyre. "We're constantly managing and balancing the resources and the funding that we have, but we know that our Syrian students require a great deal of support and we're looking to both the provincial and federal governments for financial support."

Larissa Liepins, Press Secretary for Alberta's Minister of Education, said the government has restored grants for English language learners, and students registered after Sept. 30 get 50 per cent of those grants. However, that doesn't cover per-student funding that's calculated at that same time.

In November, Education Minister David Eggen told Metro that he would take another look at the per-student numbers if they changed by a significant amount.

Liepins said they couldn't say at the moment if the numbers would be reassessed or not. Alberta Education has asked the CBE to track their costs for Alberta Education.

Bowen-Eyre said the number of Syrian students entering the system increases daily.

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Alberta farmers held massive convoys last winter to protest the controversial Bill 6 legislation. METRO FILE

Other dates for Bill 6

OHS

Wildrose criticize NDP for not tabling bill this spring

Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

After internal government documents revealed the government was set to table Bill 6 this spring, Agriculture Minister Oneil Carlier says the NDP chose to announce the controversial legislation last fall to ensure labour protections were in place as soon as possible.

In July, emails obtained through the province's FOIP Act from a senior agriculture communications staffer said the government was considering tabling Bill 6 during the spring 2016 sitting, adding consultations would occur in the fall.

But that wasn't the case — the government put forth the legislation during the fall, stirring up farmers whose family members wouldn't have been exempt from Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) rules if the bill wasn't amended.

The rules only apply to paid workers, who will be compensated if injured on the job.

Wildrose Jobs Critic Grant Hunter said presenting Bill 6 in the spring would've made more sense — the government could've avoided the political mess by having more time to consult stakeholders.

"(Farmers) would've had a lot more of a chance to give their input," he said. "I really don't know why it was rushed so quickly."

Minister Carlier said the government feels strongly about OHS protection for farm workers — they're workers like everyone else.

"They deserve the protection," Carlier said. "This is more than just a job — it's a way of life. You don't make money in a way of life — you make money in a business.

> **"(Farmers) would've had a lot more of a chance to give their input. I really don't know why it was rushed so quickly.**
> Grant Hunter, Wildrose

Farming is a business."

But Hunter said some farm operations aren't hiring part-time workers because of the new OHS standards.

"When you make hasty policy decisions it can be detrimental to people," he said.

Operators will be expected to meet general standards of care until safety rules specific to their operations are crafted later this year, after the government further consults with stakeholders.

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Spider veins, also known as "telangectasias" are capillaries which have been damaged and are now visible at the surface of the skin. These can appear red, blue or purple. Reticular veins, also known as "feeder veins" are the blue to green veins that can become enlarged, twisted and may protrude slightly. These are found in the legs and are especially visible behind the knees. These veins do not typically cause any pain or discomfort and are considered a cosmetic problem rather than a medical one.

What causes these vessels to become damaged? Within healthy veins and capillaries there are valves. The job of the valves is to ensure blood is flowing in one direction only. In damaged veins and capillaries, these valves have become weak and defective which allows blood to flow backward and pool inside the vessel. As this happens, pressure builds. The vessel wall weakens and will eventually expand to compensate for the additional volume. As a result, the vein enlarges, bulges and twists. Depending on the size of the blood vessel and extent of swelling, the result is a spider, reticular, or varicose vein.

How does Laser Vein Therapy work?

During a laser vein removal treatment a concentrated beam of light is directed precisely at the veins. The light penetrates into the vessel, coagulating the blood and subsequently shutting it down. The walls of the vein collapse, blood flow is stopped and over the next two to eight weeks the vein is re-absorbed back into the body via the lymphatic system. When the damaged vessels are closed off and reabsorbed, your body will simply reroute blood flow through other healthy vessels. After your course of treatment the vessels that have been treated will be gone forever. Unfortunately, because some people are prone to developing these broken vessels, new ones may appear down the road. Touch-up treatments may be needed as new vessels appear.

Unfortunately, laser vein therapy is not an option for varicose veins and veins larger than 2 mm in diameter. Varicose veins can be treated with a procedure known as Schlerotherapy which is not offered at Skinpossible. For people with spider veins on the face or legs or reticular veins 2 mm or smaller, treatment with lasers is a safer option.

Results of Laser Vein Therapy:

Advantages of treating veins with a laser:

- Safer and less expensive than vein injections
- Non-invasive, no needles
- One treatment usually required
- Quick recovery

Laser vein treatments have become very popular because they are non-invasive and offer many advantages over sclerotherapy, including the price of the treatments and the quick recovery time. Sclerotherapy may take multiple treatments and needle injections are needed in each vein. Tiny/matted spider veins are often extremely difficult to treat this way and may be too small to even be injected at all. Treating spider and reticular veins with a laser may only require one treatment and needles are not used.

Getting rid of unsightly veins on the face or legs can be life-changing! Sun exposure for a few weeks post treatment is a consideration and it does take time for the vessels to disappear. Bare leg season is almost upon us to plan ahead for that special occasion when you want to look your best.

Skinpossible is a private full-service medical aesthetics clinic. If you would like to learn more about laser vein therapy or any of our treatments call and schedule a free consultation.

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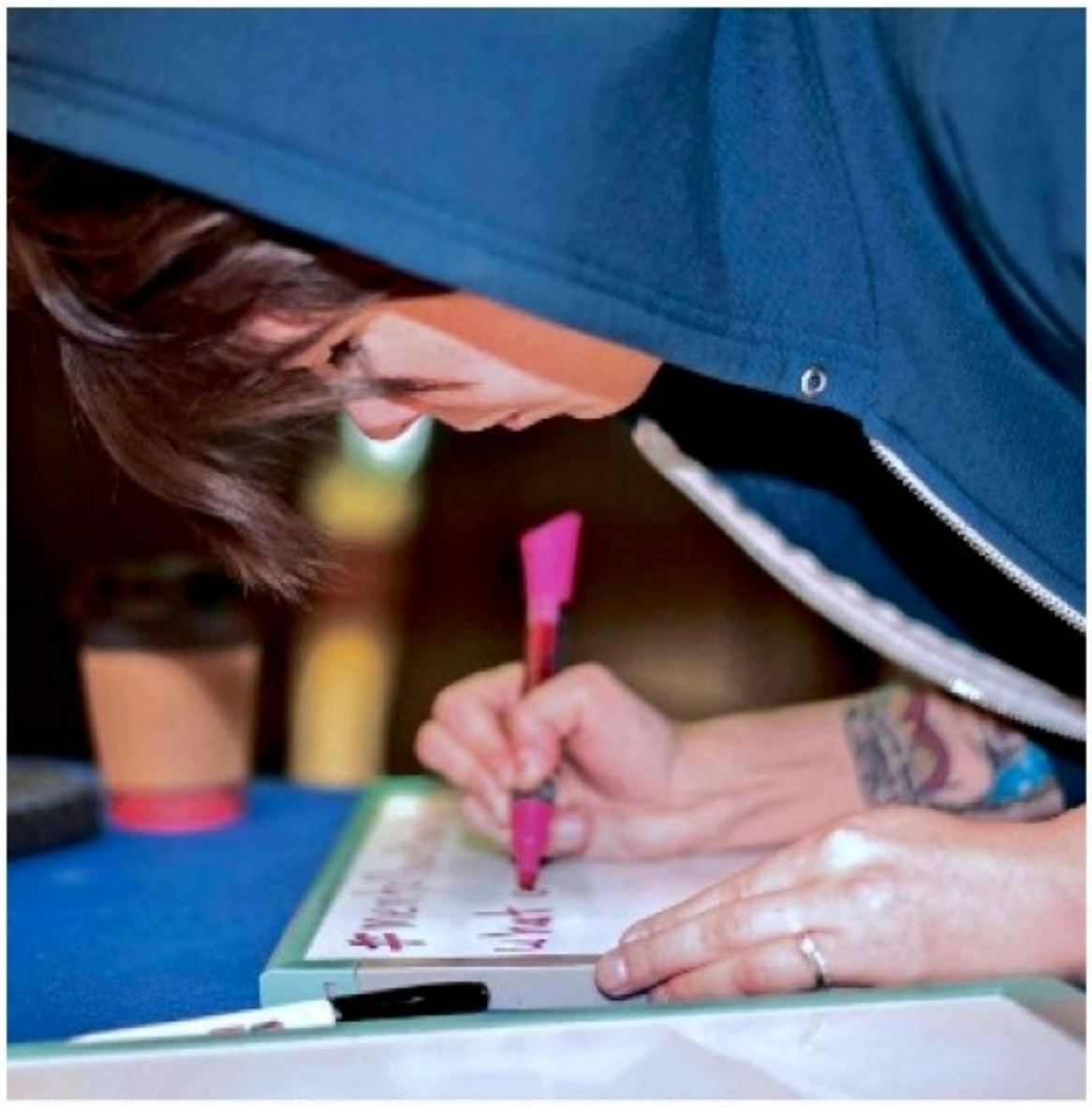

Emily Leedham writes: **"What good is ending stigma if we don't have resources to support those who speak up?"** KENNETH APPLEBY/FOR METRO

Students hopeful for stable funding

MENTAL HEALTH

$10.5M pledge allocated by PCs in 2013 exhausted

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

Calgary's post-secondary students are hoping to hear key words in the provincial budget: stable mental health funding.

But as April 14 date nears, students fear they may be left out.

This year, $10.5 million in post-secondary mental health funding allocated by the PCs in 2013 will run dry, and students have been advocating for its reinstatement. Last month the minister of advanced education told reporters there are still some questions about where that money could come from.

On Tuesday, the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS), launched campaigns across the province to let the province's political leaders know mental health matters to them. At the University of Calgary, students gathered at a photo booth to share their stories, and at Mount Royal students wrote on a whiteboard what the funding means to them.

"Mental health has become a buzzword for the right reasons," said Romy Garrido, chair of CAUS. "It's super important and all students value it."

For the U of C, Garrido said they've seen more counselling hours at better times, but she said students are saying services could be more robust.

At MRU, president Erik Queenan said the funding helped the school hire a mental health nurse — a first for the institution.

"I get an email every single time a student passes away, and I usually don't find out why a student passes away," said Queenan. "I know suicide is the second leading cause, after accidents, for death among young people. After you receive a couple of those emails you know that a couple of those people needed support, and they didn't get the support that they needed."

New numbers from the National College Health Assessment show that 1.6 per cent of students at MRU attempted suicide in the last 12 months — with 13.1 per cent of the student body having seriously considered it.

The survey was sent out to 3,984 students Jan. 26th to Feb. 16th. A total of 1,652 completed it for a response rate of 41.5 per cent.

Emily Leedham said she's sharing her story because she wants to illustrate the impact the resources had helping her cope with insomnia, anxiety and depression.

"It still is a bit of a struggle sometimes, because there are wait lists," Leedham said. "These services are incredibly important and they're very much in demand, but they're the best we have right now. If we didn't have those it would be very detrimental to the students."

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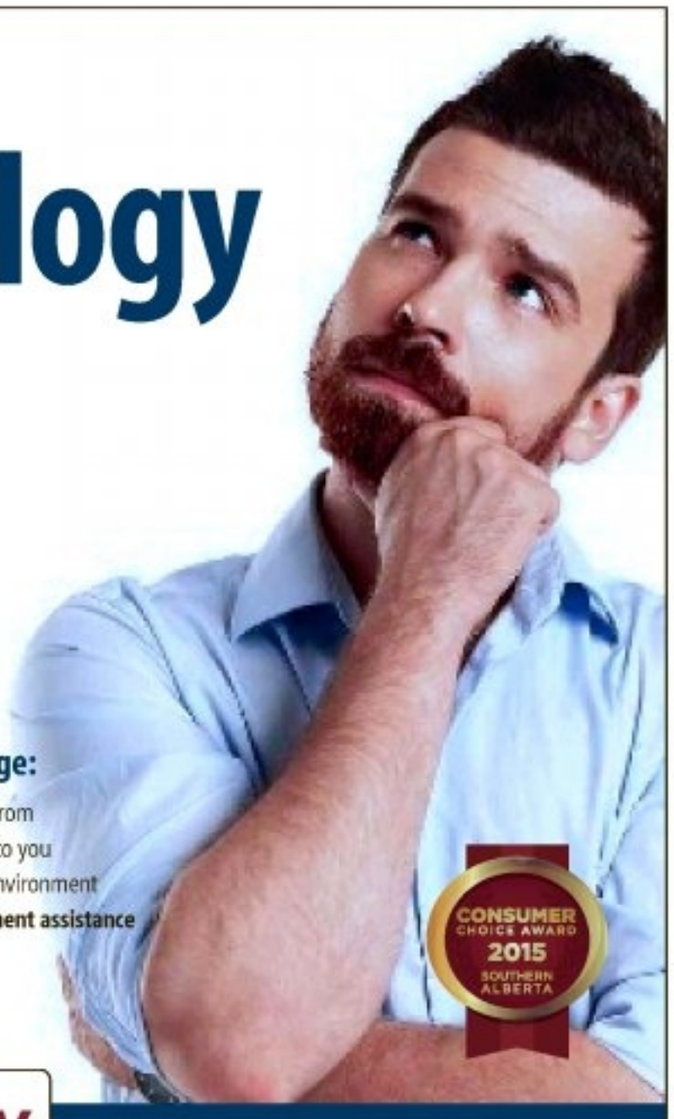

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Police funding's new approach has begun

BUSINESS MODEL

Economic climate forces changes, says Calgary Chief

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

Calgary Police Chief Roger Chaffin said the reallocation of 48 officers over the next two months is just the start of a new business model for CPS.

Chaffin said due to the economic climate in Calgary, CPS understands that they have to approach things differently than they have in the past.

"At some point your exercise has to be you either ask for more money and more people or you find a different way of doing business," he said. "We're in that mode now of looking at how we can do business differently."

Chief Roger Chaffin said he will make adjustments to the CPS business model while maintaining a standard of policing.
JENNIFER FRIESEN /FOR METRO

He said the goal of the organization is to look for things they can do without while still meeting citizens' expectations for public safety and policing.

"I'm going to look at other things down the road," he said. "As soon as this redeployment is done, we're going to make sure things are stable and we're going to look at different crime strategies to make sure we address the high crime trend, and we're going to start looking at shifting models and we'll follow the budget."

Chaffin said if budget pressures continue, then they will look at doing another redeployment.

Metro first reported on the issue of frontline policing numbers being low and officers having issues with it back in November. In some instances shifts were only staffed at around 50 per cent, where the CPS mandated baseline was 80 per cent.

Chaffin said since making the announcement about the redeployment he has had positive reactions from frontline CPS members.

"They just like that we're actually doing this," he said, "They're seeing some confidence there that we're paying attention and listening to the quality of their work experience."

NATURAL GAS PIPELINE

Pincott meets with ATCO on concerns

After meeting with ATCO officials on Monday, Ward 11 Coun. Brian Pincott said he has no concerns about the high-pressure pipeline that runs under 14 Street SW.

"The big point of the meeting was to have the city sit down with ATCO to make sure we're all on the same page, talking about the same thing, and coordinating work as much as possible," said Pincott.

A local citizens group called Ready to Engage has been raising safety concerns about building bus lanes for the southwest transitway on top of a natural gas pipeline that runs underneath a section of 14 Street SW.

> **Roads are run over pipelines all the time.**
> Coun. Brian Pincott

ATCO has been building sections of new high-pressure gas lines — mainly around the edge of the city. It will be decommissioning some older high-pressure pipelines and repurposing others as low-pressure pipelines.

ATCO is planning to run a new section of pipeline in tandem with the southwest ring road, meaning it will be able to decommission or repurpose the 14 Street pipeline in about five years.

Pincott said the city wanted reassurance that ATCO would not be digging up the newly-constructed road in five years to work on the pipeline.

"Roads are run over pipelines all the time," said Pincott, adding that rules and regulations will be followed during construction of BRT lanes.

COMPANY

- ATCO is responsible for the network of natural gas pipelines that serve Calgary.
- The company is in the midst of an urban pipeline replacement program.

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Baby gorilla starts to rally

ANIMALS

Encouraging signs have zoo watchers feeling relieved

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

The Calgary's Zoo's newborn baby gorilla has been off to a rough start in life, with handlers keeping a close eye as she struggles to gain weight.

It's been about two weeks since the baby was born, and zoo officials have tried not to intervene, but on Saturday they were forced to sedate the mother, Kioja, and temporarily take the baby.

"We checked her heart, ultrasounded her head to make sure there was no cranial damage, took a blood sample and gave her nutrition, some of it milk taken from her mom, and also some fluids," said head veterinarian Sandie Black.

"That's the only time we've needed to intervene."

Black said that gave the baby enough strength to carry on with her nursing.

Handlers say the baby's grip while holding onto her mother has improved. AARON CHATHA / METRO

"Her nursing initially was a bit weak, which is probably why things have been a bit slow," she said. "But, day by day, this baby continues to get a little bit stronger and put on a little bit of weight."

Black said both Kioja and the father, Kakinga, have been attentive to making sure the baby is getting care.

> **"Day by day, this baby continues to get ... stronger.**
> Veterinarian Sandie Black

Kakinga has been directing the other three females in the gorilla troop to keep their distance. Kakinga himself will every so often touch the baby with a meaty finger but, for the most part, he just keeps nearby.

"He is appropriately protective," said Black. "He's just aware all the time of this need to change behaviours in the troop to make things as good as possible. He does such a great job."

This is Kakinga's 10th baby.

The TransAlta Rainforest Building, where the gorillas are located, is operating under limited hours to allow the gorillas, with the baby, become comfortable with guests and large crowds.

Pet store appears closed

A city pet store whose operators are facing animal neglect charges appear to be closed for business.

On Monday, the Calgary Humane Society laid animal neglect charges against two people connected with Riverfront Aquariums. It stemmed from a December 2015 seizure of 333 animals from the northeast Calgary location.

When contacted by phone Tuesday, the person who answered stated the store was still open for business. When Metro did a physical visit, the establishment appeared to be closed at 2 p.m., even though the store hours are posted online as 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Wayne Woo and Michael Chow are currently listed as manager and owner of the establishment, respectively, and despite attempts to contact them, neither were available to comment.

Woo and Chow were charged on March 16 under the Animal Protection Act of Alberta. Their first court appearance is scheduled for May 24. METRO

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#56608	2015	Chev Canyon Ext/C 4x4	WAS $40,955	NOW $35,688	SAVINGS $5,067
#54129	2015	Chev HD Express Cutaway	WAS $54,771	NOW $48,488	SAVINGS $6,283
#55352	2015	Chev 2500 HD Silverado C/C 4x4	WAS $71,835	NOW $55,488	SAVINGS $16,347
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# 55428	2015	Chev 2500 Silverado HD C/C 4x4 Lash	Was $82,615	NOW $65,488	SAVINGS $17,127
# 55436	2015	Chev 1500 Silverado DBL Lowered	Was $62,056	NOW $48,488	SAVINGS $13,568
# 55455	2015	Chev 1500 Silverado C/C 4x4	Was $63,535	NOW $49,488	SAVINGS $14,047
# 54942	2015	Chev 2500 Savana Cargo Van	Was $39,335	NOW $34,488	SAVINGS $4,867
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# 55631	2015	Chev Canyon SLE Crew Cab	Was $38,210	SOLD	SAVINGS $6,012
#54945	2015	Chev 2500 Savana Cargo Van	Was $39,335	NOW $34,488	SAVINGS $4,867
# 54836	2015	Chev Trax LS	Was $21,490	NOW $16,688	SAVINGS $4,802
# 56398	2015	GMC Terrain SLE2	Was $33,689	NOW $26,988	SAVINGS $6,701
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‘My life has meaning again’

HEALTH

Calgarian looks back on a year since brain surgery

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

Night and day — that’s the best way to describe Kristina Waldmann a year after a life-altering surgery.

A year ago she was very different. Her days consisted of setting small goals, like getting out of bed for a shower, or even the rare trip outdoors to walk her dog.

At 27, she was suffering from a pineal cystic tumour. It gave her daily pressure headaches, severe migraines, dizziness, tinnitus, visual disturbances, memory impairment, and difficulty concentrating. She spent most of her life indoors, and was forced to quit her job and school. The condition rendered the young woman a shadow of her formal, vibrant, self.

“When she was sick, it was awful,” said mother Donna Waldmann. “She was in pain, crying, she just looked sick all the time.”

The brain surgery she had to resolve her problems wasn’t available in Alberta.

She travelled to Texas where she gained a new appreciation for our country’s health-care system. Facing an out-of-pocket $100,000 price tag, even after fundraising, Kristina’s parents had to take out a second mortgage on their home.

“It was definitely worth it, because your health is so important,” Donna said. “Alberta Health, I think they really need to step up for these types of things.

“We had to get a loan, but how about people who can’t get a loan, what do they do? Just suffer in pain?”

Kristina’s own story has a very happy ending.

She’s about to finish her honours in psychology degree. She’s volunteering, she’s working.

“I can’t believe the difference from a year ago to today,” she said. “Just feeling like my life has meaning again; there’s a purpose, that my family’s not suffering — just being able to do regular things, I appreciate those little things so much more.”

She’s now reading, and socializing — two things she couldn’t do freely before her surgery.

“At first I had to take everything really slow, it’s amazing, I felt a lot of fatigue, but since I wasn’t feeling the pain, it didn’t seem so bad,” Kristina said.

“I hit the three-month mark, and the six-month mark, those were the defining moments. I was able to return to my normal life. It was exciting.

“Being able to go back to school, and finally finish my thesis, that was really good.”

She’s hoping to get into a master’s program and become a licensed psychologist. That’s about three or so years if she’s accepted into a program.

Kristina said she wants to raise awareness about brain tumours and encourage the medical community with up-to date clinical guidelines.

Kristina Waldmann, at home in Calgary, said she read lots of books, and watched Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt while recovering from surgery. KENNETH APPLEBY/FOR METRO

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AWARENESS

New group touts benefits of Calgary transit projects

Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

Jennifer Burgess wants to change the tone of the conversation on transit in Calgary.

The Calgary woman is chair of a new group called ILoveYYCTransit. She said the goal of the group is to be more vocal in support of transit generally, and of new projects.

"We were really concerned about the conversations that were happening in the city. They were very negative, full of inaccurate information, very misleading — and really missing a diversity of voices," she said.

ILoveYYCTransit has a six-member organizing committee, and many more who are pledging to help the group spread its message of peace, order and good transit.

She said the members of the group come from all over the city, but include some from the southwest — where a new transitway project has sparked a group of citizens calling themselves Ready to Engage to protest its construction.

"We have a couple families in the southwest who really rely on public transit," said Burgess.

She said they've also connected with the student union at Mount Royal.

Burgess has a background in politics. She currently works as a communications consultant, but she previously ran for the NDP in a 2012 byelection, and currently serves as the president of the Calgary Buffalo NDP Constituency Association.

The group has a website and a Facebook page — with almost as many likes as Ready to Engage's Facebook page — though Burgess doesn't place much stock in the likes.

"A lot of people have compared us to Ready to Engage and we're not that kind of organization at all. We're really focused on raising awareness, providing a different voice and changing the conversation," she said.

Jennifer Burgess is chair of a new group called **ILoveYYCTransit,** which hopes to change the tone of the transit debate in Calgary. KENNETH APPLEBY/FOR METRO

MUSIC FESTIVAL

Sled Island announces second wave of artists

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

Sled Island Music and Arts Festival has announced its second wave of artists for the 2016 lineup.

Some of the new announcement include psych and drone group Oneida, experimental sludge-doom band SubRosa, new lo-fi pop project The Seth Bogart Show, California punk band together Pangea and garage-rock four-piece Chastity Belt.

Sled Island had previously announced Peaches as the 2016 guest curator, to put her stamp on the festival through special programming and presence at events. Her new selections for the festival include an electronic beat-maker Planningtorock, hip-hop artist Cakes Da Killa and electro-pop artist Vice Cooler.

Local acts like Blu Shorts, Crack Cloud and Lab Coast have been announced as well.

The festival takes place June 22 to 26.

For more information visit sledisland.com.

IMPAIRED DRIVING

Student wins liquor bag art contest with blunt message

A Grade 6 student from Tofield School east of Edmonton has won an Alberta liquor bag design contest with a powerful message against impaired driving.

Keana Hollman's art features a drinking driver not paying attention to a road sign as someone is trying to cross. A second picture shows a person grieving at a grave site.

Her message in bold red-and-orange letters reads: "If you drink and drive, you'll make someone cry."

Keana's entry was chosen from more than 150 provincewide. It is to be printed on one million brown paper bags distributed to liquor stores starting the May long weekend. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Noise complaints persist

MARLBOROUGH

Residents dissatisfied with meetings with airport

Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

A group that wants to address airport noise in the community of Marlborough is hoping for a healthier discussion at a meeting planned for Thursday.

Tensions boiled over at a Jan. 20 meeting between community members, Calgary Airport officials and representatives from Nav Canada and Transport Canada.

Jeannine Grey, a member of Runway Noise Calgary, said they still don't have assurances that officials from Nav Canada or Transport Canada will be at Thursday's meeting.

She said the airport authority will do a presentation and then hopefully answer questions from the audience.

At the Jan. 20 meeting, citizens were unhappy with the open house style meeting, which only allowed for face-to-face discussions with officials.

Jeannine's husband Robert said the group is realistic about their expectations. They know they won't stop the airport from landing planes, but they want to see a greater emphasis on planes using the industrial corridor to land.

"It's about being neighbourly — negotiate things and solve things in a decent way instead of arguing and fighting," he said.

The meeting is Thursday, 7 p.m. at the Marlborough Community Centre.

Noise from low-flying aircraft are becoming more than just a nuisance for Marlborough residents. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

This group held a 40-day vigil in front of a Calgary abortion clinic. SCREENSHOT

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Vigil held in front of abortion clinic

Stephanie Joe
For Metro | Calgary

The Calgary clinic targeted by pro-life groups during a 40-day campaign says it amounts to a big "waste" of police resources.

From Feb. 10 to March 21 a group of people set up an ongoing vigil in front of the Kensington Clinic to persuade women to not get abortions.

Jairo Garzon, coordinator of the vigil, said that the 40 Days For Life vigils are an annual event that have been going on since 2007.

"During those 40 days we are getting organized in order to pray and participate in front of the abortion clinics," he said. "Our hope is that that facility is going to get closed."

Despite the campaign's aim to close abortion facilities, Garzon said they're not looking for confrontation.

"This is a peaceful campaign; we are not looking for confrontational situations," he said.

However, there has been some push back.

Celia Posyniak, the executive director of Kensington Clinic, said that the police were called several times during the 40 Days For Life vigil that was held outside the Kensington Clinic.

"It's written in pretty simple English," said Posyniak, "but these people have a lot of difficulty understanding it, I guess. I think they waste police resources.

"We consider it harassment and bullying of women. Very unbecoming of a church to engage in such an activity."

Posyniak is disappointed an event like this would be promoted, claiming that it's advertised in a church bulletin as an activity similar to a shift at a "food bank or a homeless shelter"

A counter protest has sprung up in response to the vigil called 40 Days of Harassment.

Metro has attempted to contact the group, but have yet to hear a comment.

> **We consider it harassment and bullying of women. Very unbecoming of a church to engage in such an activity.**
> Celia Posyniak

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THE 2016 FEDERAL BUDGET

Trudeau Liberals make it rain

Child benefit, native welfare cornerstones of huge spend

Justin Trudeau's Liberals are opting to spend heavily in their first budget to deliver the "bold, transformative" change they say is needed to put Canadians on firm footing for the future.

The Liberal budget unveiled Tuesday calls for new spending in the billions of dollars for aboriginal communities, middle-class families, transit upgrades and social housing in cities and towns across Canada. It provides more cash for children and their parents, poor seniors, unemployed Canadians and injured veterans.

For all that, Canada's finances will go deep into the red for the next five years as Liberals set aside election pledges to contain deficit spending.

Instead, the government said it will take advantage of low interest rates to borrow money and spend nearly $30 billion more this year than it takes in as revenue.

The Liberals had vowed to keep the deficit to no more than $10 billion and to eliminate it by the end of their mandate. Tuesday's budget predicts a deficit of $14.3 billion in 2020-21.

The plan unveiled by Finance Minister Bill Morneau doesn't set out how or when the books will be balanced, although he told reporters if growth is better than forecast, the country could be back in the black in five years.

"Some (projects) are urgently needed and require the government to act quickly. But in every case, investments will be made with a focus on long-term value so that Canadians will reap the benefits far into the future," Morneau said in the House of Commons.

He stressed the Liberals' priority was to grow the middle class — the title he gave to the 269-page document.

He told the Commons that the Liberal plan — which will see the deficit grow to $29.4 billion in 2016-17 — is "reasonable and affordable."

At the core of the Liberal strategy is the Canada Child Benefit, some $5 billion in new spending a year that Morneau boasted was a social program to rival universal health care.

2016-17 DEFICIT

$29.4 billion

"It will lift hundreds of thousands of kids up from poverty," Morneau said.

Morneau did not deliver a promised small-business two percentage point tax cut.

Morneau also declared he was "most proud" of the new investment in indigenous communities, saying the more than $8 billion pledged over five years for education, nursing stations, housing and sewer and water treatment is more than the $5 billion promised by a previous Liberal government's Kelowna Accord in 2005. The Conservative government cancelled that agreement.

The defence department will see its capital spending deferred as the budget delays $3.7 billion for big-ticket capital projects, confirmation that any new military hardware remains several years away.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Bill Morneau, right, with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau as he makes his way to deliver the budget in the House of Commons on Tuesday. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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THE 2016 FEDERAL BUDGET

City mayors feel the love

It's a very positive signal ... that they understand that there are a number of municipalities that don't have the full financial capacity to pay for all these projects.

Today, the federal government released a budget that recognizes cities like Toronto are the very best investment that our government of Canada can make.

Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson

Toronto Mayor John Tory

It's a good down payment on many fronts. It shows their commitment to supporting cities.

I think the investments in infrastructure in cities are significant and the signals are there that they're going to grow over time.

Vancouver's Gregor Robertson

Edmonton Mayor Don Iveson

I'm very pleased to hear there is ... investment in infrastructure as well as investments in indigenous communities and for indigenous Canadians.

It's pretty clear that there's a lot of needs at the municipal level and we're very encouraged by what we see in the budget.

Winnipeg Mayor Brian Bowman

Halifax Mayor Mike Savage

INFRASTRUCTURE

Historic building boom yet to arrive

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

If you were expecting Tuesday's federal budget to usher in a new golden age of infrastructure in Canada, you're going to have to wait a little longer, experts say.

Finance Minister Bill Morneau began his budget speech by referencing the post-war construction boom in Canada that saw massive projects like the Trans-Canada Highway and St. Lawrence Seaway built.

However, the actual vision presented in budget is less grandiose.

The Liberals campaigned on investing $60 billion in infrastructure over 10 years. The "first phase" of that plan only includes $11.9 billion over five years.

"I think it's a down payment on the infrastructure needs of our cities," said University of Toronto planning professor Matti Siemiatycki.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities estimates that national infrastructure backlog tips the scales at $123 billion.

Siemiatycki applauded the decision to allow federal money to be spent on maintenance, rather than just new projects.

"We need to emphasize getting our house in order. Getting our existing infrastructure up to a state of good repair is a good place to start," he said.

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THE 2016 FEDERAL BUDGET

Trudeau pledges $8.4B

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

Funding will help tackle water, waste management

When Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government unveiled what was billed as a "historic" $8.4 billion investment in Canada's First Nations communities on Tuesday, one question leapt to Jackie Szkoda's mind: Will it be enough?

But Szkoda, a 55-year-old Shawnee woman originally from the Kettle and Stony Point First Nation, 35 km northeast of Sarnia, Ont., said even that sum may not be sufficient to solve problems facing indigenous communities.

"I think it's great that they're putting more money into our issues," said Szkoda, who works at the Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre.

The 2016 federal budget commits the unprecedented amount of funding — spread out over five years — towards improving the socio-economic conditions of indigenous communities.

The money is designed to tackle everything from safe drinking water and housing to waste management and the over-representation of aboriginal peoples in the criminal justice system. THE CANADIAN PRESS

National Chief Perry Bellegarde THE CANADIAN PRESS

ECONOMY

Grits defer future cuts to small business tax

A Liberal campaign promise to cut the small business income tax rate appears to have itself landed on the chopping block, blindsiding the group that represents hundreds of thousands of business owners.

Rather than continuing the legislated decrease towards a 9 per cent rate in 2019, the Liberals are fixing the rate at its current 10.5 per cent on the first $500,000 of active business income. Additional cuts are being deferred indefinitely.

The move contradicts a Liberal campaign promise to stick to the existing schedule, set out in the previous Conservative government's last budget.

Finance Minister Bill Morneau, who billed the budget as a good one for small businesses, did not directly answer a question on why the government decided to abandon the promise.

"We know that for small businesses the most important thing is to have an economy that's working," he told a news conference ahead of his budget speech. "That's what we want for Canada."

Morneau said the Liberal budget's focus on the middle class benefits small business because it will provide them with more customers, as it will give more people more money to spend.

But Dan Kelly, president of the Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses, said many of those small business owners are middle-class Canadians who will forfeit millions in earnings without those tax cuts.

"Cancelling that, I have to tell you, is puzzling and, from my perspective, alarming," Kelly said.

It's not the only slap, he added — the Liberals had also promised a employment-insurance holiday for businesses that hire students, but that was also a no-show.

"It is a very troubling budget, one of the worst budgets we've seen in the last decade or two."

During the election, all three main parties were actively courting the support of small business by sticking to the Tories' small business tax plan.

> **The most important thing is to have an economy that's working.**
> Bill Morneau

But then-Liberal leader Justin Trudeau created a minor controversy when he suggested small businesses set up as private firms were a way for people to avoid paying taxes.

The CFIB said there was no evidence to support Trudeau's assertion, but Liberals countered that they were relying on studies by economists.

Despite that, they pledged to lower the rate. Kelly said they appear to have done some of that in the budget by tightening the rules on allowing investment income to qualify for the small business tax rate and removing the ability of partners in a business to individually claim that rate. THE CANADIAN PRESS

THE 2016 FEDERAL BUDGET

Single mom Ava Williams with three of her four kids, Dianne, 12, Devah, 8, in blue, and Zariah, 6, in pink. Ava also has a 17 year old son not in the photo. She is looking forward to learning how the federal budget will change the child benefit to help her four children. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Benefit plan praised by mom of 4

CHILD CARE

Anti-poverty group says more details are needed

Toronto single mother Ava Williams was in shock when she learned Tuesday's budget could mean an additional $4,000 a year for her four children.

"Honestly, I'd have to see it first to believe it," said Williams, 33, whose children range in age from 6 to 17.

Under the Trudeau government's new streamlined Canada Child Benefit, families with children under age 6 will receive an annual tax-free benefit of up to $6,400 per child and those with children between the ages of 6 and 17 will receive up to $5,400.

Families with annual net incomes below $30,000 will receive the maximum payment.

"My son is starting college in September. I've saved up for tuition. But maybe I could use the money for books. Or something else he might need," Williams said. "And then there is Grade 8 graduation for my daughter next year — and you know how girls are. Or maybe we could look at moving into a better place."

Finance Minister Bill Morneau said the measure delivers on the Liberal government's promise to help parents with the high cost of raising children.

"The Canada Child Benefit is the most significant social policy innovation in a generation. It will lift hundreds of thousands of kids up from poverty," he said Tuesday in his speech to the Commons.

Anti-poverty groups praised the measure, but warned they would oppose any attempt by provinces to claw-back the payment from families on social assistance.

"This is a historic step forward in the battle against child poverty in Canada that is long overdue and long called-for by Campaign 2000 and other groups," said Anita Khanna, national co-ordinator of Campaign 2000.

"But we're very keen to understand the details of the delivery to ensure the money goes to the children and families who are most in need — those on social assistance," she added.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

DEFENCE

Military purchases delayed, vets win big

The promised re-equipping of the Canadian military has essentially been postponed until after the next election in a maiden federal Liberal budget that shifts billions of dollars in capital spending to 2020 — or later.

The Trudeau government's new fiscal plan shoves $3.7 billion in planned defence purchases — ships, planes and vehicles — off into the future, but Finance Minister Bill Morneau insists the move does not represent a cut to military funding.

Morneau said the Liberals need a year to figure out Canada's defence priorities.

"In order to make sure we have the funds available at the time when they need those funds, we've re-profiled some in the fiscal framework," he told a news conference prior to tabling the budget in the House of Commons.

"So, when we need the money, the money will be in the fiscal framework. So, we believe that is the appropriate action to take to ensure our military has the appropriate equipment, the planes and the ships they need."

Instead, it was the veterans community that emerged Tuesday as one of the biggest winners in the Liberal spending spree.

Canada's ex-soldiers will see enriched disability awards, expanded access to permanent impairment allowances and a more generous income replacement program for the wounded — measures totalling $5.6 billion over six years, starting this year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ROB FORD: 1969–2016

He defied the odds

FORMER TORONTO MAYOR

Politician was a penny-pincher infamous for personal excess

For all his bad — which was considerable — Rob Ford left us with enough good to comfort his boosters.

"Unique" doesn't begin to describe the astonishing, incomprehensible, indecipherable head-scratcher of a politician. Gaffes and impolitic indiscretions that would sink mere mortals seemed to conspire to elevate his status.

This was a man without a college degree, who, by most calculations, would have been hard-pressed to ascend to the executive offices of the city's boardrooms; yet he became mayor of the country's largest city. And for four years, he was the most (in)famous mayor in all the world.

Rarely has Toronto's name been on the lips of so many for so long and in so many far reaches.

Rob Ford at his campaign launch in April 2014. The former Toronto mayor has died at 46. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wherever political scientists study voting phenomenon, they'll be stretched to explain how a young man from central-north Etobicoke — a simple man trading on the means of his politician-turned-businessman father — could parlay such limited recognizable skills into securing the votes of so many of the most fickle of customers.

Rob Ford seemed always to defy the odds. Exploding grenades didn't shatter his façade, they propelled him into the air. The more he sank into the morass of personal excess — the alcohol and drugs — the more entrenched, though narrowed, his appeal.

In more than 15 years of municipal politics, Ford never lost an election. His singular appeal was his message that never grew old and never lost appeal:

"You can trust me with your money. I'm not going to waste it."

Ford's genius — crafted or naturally acquired — is that he connected with the average guy.

Bumbling, stumbling, a bit off-kilter, never well-dressed, a bit awkward, politically incorrect, overweight, bumptious while shy, he represented the imperfections in all of us, even those of us who despised him for it.

His singular appeal as a politician was "customer service." He answered the phone calls of his constituents, personally. He showed up to their door to attend to their little problems. And constituents never forgot that.

They call it retail politics. And Rob Ford was so successful in growing the brand that his brother, Doug, almost rode it to victory in the last municipal election.

Rob Ford was Toronto's 64th mayor, the third after the controversial and forced amalgamation that created the megacity in 1998. He will not be forgotten any time soon. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

INFLUENCE

The legacy will last

Matt Elliott
Metro | Toronto

Even when Rob Ford's appearances at Toronto City Hall became less and less frequent due to illness, the city's most infamous ex-mayor maintained a presence — a political influence that refused to quit. Ford's death on Tuesday at the age of 46 is unlikely to change that.

Despite a mayoralty that will be remembered most for all the things that happened away from his office, Ford's legacy within city hall has already shown itself to be strong. Much of it is related to the issues that defined Ford's brand of political populism: the sanctity of cars and subways, the inherent evils of taxation, the supposed existence of oodles of government waste.

With all such issues, too much decision-making continues to be shaped by a fear shared by several of his former council colleagues — especially those in the city's suburbs.

They worry that taking a position too contrary to those held by the former mayor will attract the rage of a group of voters: the "Ford Nation."

It's a tricky legacy. On one hand, it's enormously frustrating. So many of Ford's positions were based on feelings instead of facts. They made for disastrously bad policy decisions.

But on the other hand, the fear of Ford works as a check on those who would assume the entire amalgamated city has bought into the virtue of transit, bikes, urbanism and public services.

I would have liked to see someone who understands that go up against Ford in an election. I would have liked to see voters get to decide definitively and democratically whether to reject or again embrace Ford's politics.

But, instead, city hall is left to grapple with a complicated and resilient legacy.

Cancer took Rob Ford, but something remains.

ROB FORD: 1969–2016

HITS AND MISSES

A mixed legacy on policy

In his four-year term as mayor, Rob Ford was at the centre of many well-documented scandals, both personal and political. His legacy on policy at city hall is just as complicated.

Ford attends an executive committee meeting at city hall in May 2013. MICHELLE SIU/THE CANADIAN PRESS

SUCCESSES

TTC as an essential service: Ford, fresh off an election win, successfully saw council request the province declare the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC), the city's public transport agency, as an essential service and prevent further labour disruptions.

Privatizing garbage: After promising to contract out garbage citywide, Ford claimed victory for contracting out just one west-end district when council approved that move in 2011.

Subways: Ford's ongoing mission to put all-new transit underground served up one victory in October 2013 when council voted to scrap plans for a fully funded LRT in the east end and build a three-stop subway instead — a decision that cost the city at least $75 million in lost work. Today plans have changed again to a questionable one-stop subway still being debated at council.

MISSTEPS

Subways: After declaring former mayor David Miller's light-rail plan dead as his first official act as mayor, Ford put forward his own subways-heavy transit plan for council approval. But he failed to garner council support and the plan was defeated in February 2012, with council largely backing a return to most of the original light rail plan.

Plastic bags banned: Though not a campaign promise, Ford decided he wanted to end a mandatory five-cent fee for plastic shopping bags in 2010, a plan that spectacularly backfired when council actually voted to ban plastic bags when it came to a vote in 2012. Council later abandoned the ban on bags.

Land transfer tax: Ford vowed to scrap the land transfer tax on home purchases, which brings in hundreds of millions in city revenues annually. But after finding a lack of support on council, Ford later changed that promise to reducing the tax by at least 10 per cent. He was never able to scrap or reduce the tax, which remains in place.

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TERRORIST ATTACK ON BRUSSELS

TERMINOLOGY

Terrorist organization will be called 'Daesh'

Starting today, Metro will refer to terrorist organization ISIS or ISIL by the title Daesh.

In long form Arabic, al-Dawla al-Islamiya fi al-Iraq wa al-Sham.

Daesh itself has abandoned the shortened term because it is too close to the Arabic words that mean "one who crushes underfoot," or "sowers of discord."

It's also similar to the word for bigot.

Those are much closer to the truth, and have the added benefit that "Daesh" also insults, rather than flatters, the group.

So outraged is Daesh at the label that it reportedly threatened to "cut the tongue" of anyone who used it, instead of its self-styled full name of "Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant".

METRO

MIGRANTS

Don't place anger onto refugees: UN

The U.N. official in charge of aiding Mideast refugees said on Tuesday that anger over the attacks in Brussels shouldn't be directed at those fleeing Syria's bloody civil war or violence elsewhere in the region.

Amin Awad, the Middle East and North Africa bureau and regional refugee co-ordinator for Syria, also criticized the worldwide "political failure" that's seen donations dry up for aid to those part of the greatest mass migration in Europe since World War II.

"There's no Plan B. There's only Plan A," Awad told The Associated Press on the sidelines of the Dubai International Humanitarian Aid & Development Conference.

"There's no way out. The only way is that the bill is paid if we are to avert the crisis," he stressed.

Those at the conference, which featured medical supplies, tents and practice dummies who had suffered traumatic injuries, spoke in hushed, stunned tones about the attacks in the European capital where bombs at Brussels' airport and at one of the city's metro stations killed at least 34 people and wounded dozens Tuesday.

> **To lump everybody together and say refugees are posing a security risk, that is not true.**
> UN Official Amin Awad

Awad stressed those fleeing had no other option, after growing only poorer, facing daily violence and not being able to school their children.

"To lump everybody together and say refugees are posing a security risk, that is not true," he said. "Any sort of hostilities (toward refugees) because of Brussels attack or Paris attack is misplaced."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BELGIUM MOBILIZES

1 High security measures— Police forces make searches inside the North station in Brussels.

2 Videos surface — This image grab from a video by RTL TVI shows people lying on the floor after the blast.

3 Suspects' photos released— A picture released by the Belgian federal police shows the suspects. ALL PHOTOS: AFP/GETTY IMAGES

'What we feared has happened'

BELGIUM ATTACKS

At least 34 dead after two explosions in airport, subway

Islamic extremists struck Tuesday in the heart of Europe, killing at least 34 people and wounding scores of others in back–to–back bombings of the Brussels airport and subway that again laid bare the continent's vulnerability to suicide squads.

Bloodied and dazed travellers staggered from the airport after two explosions — at least one blamed on a suicide attacker and another reportedly on a suitcase bomb — tore through crowds checking in for morning flights. About 40 minutes later, another blast struck subway commuters in central Brussels near the Maelbeek station, which sits amid the European Commission headquarters.

Authorities released a photo taken from closed-circuit TV footage of three men pushing luggage carts, saying two of them apparently were the suicide bombers and that the third — dressed in a light-colored coat, black hat and glasses — was at large.

Daesh has issued an updated communiqué taking credit for the Brussels attacks and threatening other countries taking part in the anti-Daesh coalition. The statement promises "dark days" for countries allied against them.

Belgium raised its terror alert to the highest level, shut the airport through Wednesday and ordered a citywide lockdown, deploying about 500 soldiers onto Brussels' largely empty streets to bolster police checkpoints.

In police raids across Brussels, authorities later found a nail-filled bomb, chemical products and a Daesh flag in a house in the Schaerbeek neighbourhood.

German police say three Kosovars who are suspected of possible links to an extremist network have been arrested on the Munich-Salzburg highway in the south of the country. However, the criminal police office said that there are no indications at this point of any link with the attacks.

"In this time of tragedy, this black moment for our country, I appeal to everyone to remain calm but also to show solidarity," said Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel. President Barack Obama has ordered that all American flags in the U.S. be flown at half-staff through Saturday out of respect.

The U.N. Security Council has strongly condemned the attacks and urged intensified regional and international efforts "to overcome terrorism and violent extremism."

Police are calling on people who may have filmed images from the attacks to assist with the investigation. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

> **In this time of tragedy ... I appeal to everyone to remain calm but also to show solidarity.** Belgian PM Charles Michel

TERRORIST ATTACK ON BRUSSELS

Fear is part of life in Europe

ALERT

Cities spared violence so far watching in trepidation

Paris, Copenhagen, Brussels. In just over a year three European capitals have been ravaged by bombs and gunfire.

After each attack life slowly returns to normal. But it's a new normal for Europe, where terror alerts are always on high and where people in cities so far spared major violence assume it's a matter of when, not if.

"With each atrocity that occurs we change," said Ian Duncan, a Scottish member of the European Parliament in Brussels. "We become less open. We pull down barriers and close doors. But it is a direction we are following now."

The carnage in Brussels on Tuesday came as Europe was still reeling from the November attacks in Paris that killed 130 people. In the following months France and Belgium have looked like countries at least partially at war, with soldiers in the streets, lockdowns and deadly shootouts with militants.

The rest of Europe has watched with trepidation.

"These were attacks in Belgium. They could just as well be attacks in Britain or France or Germany or elsewhere in Europe," British Prime Minister David Cameron told the BBC on Tuesday.

French President Francois Hollande said the attacks targeted all of Europe and he warned of a long "war" ahead.

Though people in Western Europe have dealt with the threat of violence for decades, the idea that a "war" is playing out in their streets is hard to imagine. But the recent frequency and scale of attacks have made some Europeans feel that it's just something they have to get used to.

In Moscow, security has been tightened notably at everyday locations in the wake of a series of attacks in the past 15 years. There are metal detectors at the entrances to all subway stations, all passenger rail stations do luggage scans, most indoor shopping centres have metal detectors and glowering guards. Airports do luggage scans at the entrance.

In Western Europe people are more reluctant to trade civil liberties and an open society for more security. But after each attack that equation changes, said Catherine Muller, of the Institute of Development Studies in Brighton, England.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Belgian soldier patrols outside Brussels Central Station as people are allowed in groups of ten to reach the station to catch their commuter train following attacks in Brussels. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

UNITED STATES

Copycat attacks expected

The Obama administration stepped up security at major transit hubs across the country after Tuesday's airport and subway bombings in Brussels, as top U.S. intelligence officials warned of the risk for copycat attacks at home. President Barack Obama vowed to help Belgium track down those responsible for the deadly explosions.

Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson stressed there is no "specific, credible intelligence" pointing to a similar plot in America, but he said the Transportation Security Administration would deploy additional security at major airports and rail stations in different cities.

Officials also reviewed additional security measures for travellers from Belgium, among more than three dozen countries whose citizens generally don't need a visa to enter the U.S.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DEFIANCE

Display of solidarity in chalk

A pedestrian strip outside the stock exchange in Brussels became a colourful canvas of support and defiance after Tuesday's deadly bombings as those wanting to show solidarity chalked messages — in French, Flemish, English, Arabic and Cyrillic script and more.

A few thousand people were gathered at Brussels' Place de la Bourse late Tuesday to draw more messages and light candles. One group broke into Edith Piaf's "Hymne a L'amour" (Hymn to Love) as onlookers applauded. Next, they sang the Belgian national anthem, in both French and Flemish.

Many of the drawings were joyous, with slogans like "Spread love," "Live and Let Live" and "Love is my religion." Others were more political: "Stop this war in Syria," or simply raw — one small message read: "I'm scared."

The vibe was generally upbeat, with laughing and joking, but there was an strong undercurrent of sadness.

Pepijn Kennis, 27, had tears in his eyes as he and his girlfriend drew the words "Hart Bove Haat" (Heart over Hate) in pink and yellow chalk in front of the Bourse.

Kennis said he was distraught by the sight of soldiers and heavy weaponry now commonplace across the Belgian capital. "The minute we put soldiers in the street, they've won," he said.

At the centre of the square, a memorial was improvised out of flags, tea lights, balloons, flowers and — because this is Belgium — beer bottles.

Karien Fouwels was gently scolding her daughter Chiraz as they lit a candle for the vigil.

"It's important for us to be here," she told her daughter as the latter complained that there were "no kids around."

Fouwels, a 47-year-old account director, smiled warmly when asked why she came.

"Our whole life is in this city," said Fouwels, a Brussels native. She said she dragged her 13-year-old out to show her that "we can't stop living just because of some monstrous idiots who are driven by ideology. That's why we bring coffee to soldiers. Why we bring flowers to vigils. Again and again."

"It has to be a lesson for my little girl," she said, as her now-mollified daughter leaned against her. "That she learns ... never to be scared."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Solidarity messages outside the stock exchange in Brussels.
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TERRORIST ATTACK ON BRUSSELS

Airports ripe for pre-board attack

PUBLIC SAFETY

Time between curb and flight not protected: Security expert

The airport attack in Brussels highlights one of the most vulnerable stages of aviation security: the time travellers spend between the curb and the checkpoint.

As travellers wait first to check luggage and then go through metal detectors, they crowd together in areas that are usually lightly patrolled and accessible to nearly anyone.

"We ignore it," says Isaac Yeffet, a former head of security for the Israeli airline El Al who now runs his own firm, Yeffet Security Consultants, based in the New York area. "We are careless."

For more than 40 years, security officials and terrorists have been fighting to stay ahead of each other. When airlines and governments made it harder to hijack planes, terrorists found new ways to destroy aircraft. They put bombs in checked luggage until bag screening became standard. The 9/11 hijackers defeated 2001 passenger-screening measures and used knives to turn jets into weapons.

Security checkpoints are designed to keep terrorists and weapons off planes, and for the most part they have worked since the September 2001 attacks.

But along the way, the airport itself became a target.

In 1983, Armenian terrorists set off a bomb at the Turkish Airlines check-in counter at Paris' Orly Airport, killing seven people and wounding 55. Just two years later, near simultaneous attacks hit the ticket counters of Israeli airline El Al in both Rome and Vienna, killing 18 people and wounding 120 others. El Al's ticket counter in Los Angeles was targeted in 2002, an attack that killed two people and wounded four others. And in Moscow, it was arriving passengers who were the target in a 2011 bombing near the baggage claim area; 36 people were killed and more than 180 injured.

On Tuesday, terrorists set off two bombs in the departure area of the Brussels airport and another in the subway, killing at least 31 people and wounding dozens. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

> **We ignore it. We are careless.**
> Isaac Yeffet, former head of security for El Al

An RCMP officer puts his weapon in a police vehicle after patrolling the departures area at Vancouver International Airport in Richmond, B.C., on Tuesday. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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U.S. ELECTION CAMPAIGN

Candidates use Belgium to call for more surveillance of Muslims

Republican presidential candidate Ted Cruz said Tuesday that surveillance in Muslim neighbourhoods in the U.S. must be intensified following the deadly bombings at Brussels, while rival Donald Trump suggested that torturing a suspect in last year's Paris attacks would have prevented the carnage.

Echoing Trump's earlier statements, Cruz said the U.S. should stop the flow of refugees from countries where the Daesh militant group has a significant presence. Daesh took credit for the attacks at the Brussels airport and a subway station that killed dozens Tuesday and wounded many more.

"We need to empower law enforcement to patrol and secure Muslim neighbourhoods before they become radicalized," the Texas senator said in a statement.

Trump praised Cruz's plan as a "good idea" that he supports "100 per cent" in an interview with CNN. The Republican front-runner also intensified his past calls for the U.S. to engage in harsher interrogation techniques, arguing that Belgium could have prevented the bombings had it tortured a suspect in last year's Paris attacks who was arrested last week.

Donald Trump, left, and Ted Cruz THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"Well, you know, he may be talking, but he'll talk a lot faster with the torture. ... Because he probably knew about it. I would be willing to bet that he knew about this bombing that took place today," Trump said.

Trump, who has proposed a temporary ban on foreign Muslims entering the U.S., said "nothing's nice" about techniques such as waterboarding, which simulates drowning. He added, "It's your minimal form of torture. We can't waterboard and they can chop off heads."

Rep. Adam Schiff of California, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, said earlier Tuesday the Brussels plot was probably already underway before the suspect's arrest and that his apprehension may have sped up its execution.

When reminded that international law prohibits torture, Trump responded: "Well, I would say that the eggheads that came up with this international law should turn on their television and watch CNN right now, because I'm looking at scenes on CNN right now as I'm speaking to you that are absolutely atrocious."

Speaking Tuesday afternoon in New York, Cruz praised the city's police department's former program of conducting surveillance in Muslim neighbourhoods, called for its reinstatement and said it could be a model for police departments nationwide.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Wednesday, March 23, 2016

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD **A VERY BIG NEWS DAY**

WHEN OUR PURPOSE IS CLEAR

Sometimes, when a major story breaks, and then another major story breaks, and then a few medium-sized stories break — and all this happens before a long-scheduled announcement, which everyone thought would be the day's main story, is formally released — journalists are able to temporarily set aside their competitiveness and existential angst. For once, we're not trying to scoop each other and justify our existence. **We know what needs doing — we just need to do it**

The day began with the terrorist bombing in Brussels. A phone alarm ringing, the CNN breaking-news alert flashed red across the screen. At least 26 dead in two attacks (it would rise to 30), and many more injured.

The American network mocked for overplaying its breaking-news banner wasn't upselling this.

In the news business, it would be a big day. The kind of day where journalists around the world wrestle with one story, seek to make sense of one globally reverberating event. In their own ways, from their own perch on the world. Walking into work, you could imagine reporters in hundreds of cities, most especially in Europe, pushing open newsroom doors with the same questions on their mind: What happened in Brussels, how and why, and what will happen next? And how do we cover it?

How do we tell people what is going on?

Live-feeds began rolling: piecemeal and conflicting reports that slowly coalesced into a truer picture. Journalists hugged the bombing sites, reporting any and all details. One Sky News reporter was at the airport buying chocolate for his children, so close to the explosion that he could not only hear, but feel the blasts. "There was the smell — the sort of acrid smell of smoke. Instinctively we knew it was a terrorist attack. I didn't think it could be anything else," he later wrote.

It's in the wake of huge, emotionally charged stories like yesterday's violence in Brussels that the media most resembles the indispensable information commons that it purports to be. TWITTER

Then, by midday, Rob Ford's family had announced the popular-yet-detested, controversial-yet-engrossing, outsized-in-so-many-ways former mayor had died after fighting the rare and aggressive form of cancer, pleomorphic liposarcoma.

Condolences from adversaries and friends flooded social media and were plucked by reporters to fill news-story soundbites. Colourful obituaries, the only kind imaginable for Ford, shot up on websites. Breaking-news specials, recorded in advanced, co-opted national networks.

Rob Ford: 1969-2016.

Twitter says some were celebrating the death, but I never saw it. I saw photos of lineups at city hall, where mourners waited to sign a condolence book. My colleague Jessica Smith Cross, at the scene, found supporters "already missing Ford," who had come to remember "the people's mayor."

The Toronto Star, vilified by Ford during his tenure, used soft language to report his death and encapsulate his impact on city politics. On national politics, really. Meanwhile, the family that managed to stay so out-of-the-headlines even while Ford was all the world could talk about, asked for privacy from the media.

They had lost a father/brother/son/uncle, after all. While the rest of us had only lost an avatar.

Across Toronto, there was again the feeling of reporters — on death watch since news on Thursday that Ford was in palliative care — collectively breathing in, and publishing the best take they had on Ford's legacy.

How were his passionate, hyper-loyal acolytes — Ford Nation — handling the news? What did his loss mean to them? Would they ever coalescence around a voice like that again? And are there other Rob Fords, in other Canadians cities, ready to upend politics-as-usual and unearth a hitherto silent but angry constituency?

Then: "F–k!" a colleague yelled, pushing back from his desk. "We have a pedestrian death, on top of everything."

By "everything," he also meant the much-anticipated federal budget, which, at around 4 p.m., pushed through many of the Liberals' campaign promises, billions on infrastructure, indigenous peoples and child care, along with something that wasn't promised: a much deeper deficit.

"Is the new Canada Child Benefit fair," one reporter tweeted, with a link to analysis, in one of hundreds of niche headlines to emerge. After the minister of finance finished his speech, premiers and mayors walked up to podiums to pronounce on their pet interests wrapped up in the $300-billion budget, and the news cycle whirled on.

The day was a microcosm for our super-speed world, a tight 24 hours of information overload. "This might be the most newsy day of my entire career as a journalist," a desk mate quipped.

It was also the kind of day that feels worth it. When journalists aren't tolerated — they are needed. Something important has happened (or many things). People want to know what, exactly. People need the context. They need the news.

This is journalism's job. This was one of journalism's days. A day that saw less a competition among media outlets, than a collective effort to give our societies the desired facts: those essential building blocks of understanding, and agency.

Tuesday was the kind of day that feels worth it. When journalists aren't tolerated — they are needed. People need the context. They need the news.

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metro LIFE

Your essential daily news

Alice Vaughan (Mireille Enos, left) is LA's top private investigator. She stars alongside Elvy Yost, right, in Shonda Rhimes' latest series The Catch. CONTRIBUTED

The Shondaland hit recipe

THE CATCH

How beloved Shonda Rhimes continuously cranks out hits

It's no secret that when it comes to successful Thursday-night dramas, producer, creator and writer extraordinaire Shonda Rhimes has the winning formula. ABC has dubbed Thursdays TGIT after her primetime lineup of shows — between Grey's Anatomy, Scandal and How to Get Away with Murder she's given viewers successful female characters and hired people of colour on a scale unlike any other. "Shonda just has a magic formula to make these shows that are beloved," says Mireille Enos, who debuts in ShondaLand's latest show, The Catch, on Thursday.

So what is that magic formula?

One part leading lady

Rhimes has always written (or taught her fellow showrunners to write) interesting and dynamic female characters. From the moment Ellen Pompeo walked the halls of Seattle Grace as Meredith Grey, she and the leading ladies who followed captivated a new wave of viewers with each debut.

Now, the hospital on Grey's Anatomy is mostly run by females, Kerry Washington's Olivia Pope (at right) has the ear of the president anytime she chooses, and Viola Davis's Annalise Keating is one of the most sought-after lawyers in the country. That trend continues with The Catch, as Enos's Alice Vaughan proves she's one of the best private investigators around.

Two parts newbies

Viewers have always entered ShondaLand shows through fresh eyes. Adding in characters who would naturally have to ask questions allows for quick world-building while never talking down to viewers. We're talking about the interns of Grey's Anatomy, new Gladiator recruit Quinn (Katie Lowes) on Scandal, and the Keating Five on How to Get Away with Murder. While The Catch features a little less of that concept, new hire Sophie (Elvy Yost) allows for the blanks to be filled in.

A sprinkle of hot men

The men on these series have always been more than arm candy. While some have come with muscles and dashing smiles (see Charlie Weber, left), others have won over viewers' hearts with their ability to let down their emotional guard. The latest male to join the melee is The Catch's Benjamin Jones (Peter Krause). While his motives are unclear and he comes across as shady in the pilot, he quickly becomes an equal for Alice to tango with.

A generous helping of diversity

While there's still a long way to go, it's series like these that have begun to finally change the whitewashing Hollywood has demonstrated for far too long. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

JOHANNA SCHNELLER
WHAT I'M WATCHING

Debra Messing's diet detective show

THE SHOW: The Mysteries of Laura, Season 2, Episode 14 CTV/NBC
THE MOMENT: The Mascara

New York homicide detective Laura Diamond (Debra Messing) sits in a hospital waiting room with the wife of the Cuban ambassador, who fell ill on a diplomatic mission. Though he's in surgery, his wife serenely applies makeup.

"When Jake was in surgery, I was a mess," Laura whispers to a colleague about her wisecracking ex-husband, played by Josh Lucas.

"But she's so calm. Too calm!"

Laura continues thinking out loud: And she put on mascara — waterproof mascara. Because she's preparing to cry! Because she knows he's going to die! Because she and his surgeon are lovers! And they're going to kill him!

She rushes into the OR, gun raised. She's right about everything.

Oh, Laura, you adorable smarty-pants! Earlier this week I wrote about another woman cop show, the British series Happy Valley.

You are the American cartoon version: Diet Cop. Cop Lite.

You're always sighing about your complicated life; a single mother, you work with your ex, whom you still love. (When you and he watch surveillance videos, you tussle cutely for the remote.)

Yet your curls cascade down your back like a hair model's and your flannel shirts are more precisely fitted than most Oscar gowns.

There are two kinds of cop shows, Laura: the cable kind, with tortured outcomes, where everyone is smarter than the audience; and yours, with simple (waterproof!) outcomes that make the audience feel smart along with you.

You're as unthreatening as applesauce.

So the mystery of your popularity — why, it's no mystery at all.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

Debra Messing, with curls cascading down her back, stars in a cop show as threatening as apple sauce. CONTRIBUTED

Budget delivers artists a break

The Liberals are investing more than $1.9 billion in arts and culture over the next five years. Beyond an additional $575 million in cultural infrastructure funding (for museums and heritage sites), the budget allocates money to bodies that distribute grants and commission work. It's good news for young artists. MEGAN HAYNES/METRO

MACKENZIE DONALDSON FILMMAKER

LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

Canadian cinema relies almost exclusively on grants and organizations like Telefilm or the Independent Production Fund for financing. But it can be hard for filmmakers to get in on the action. Mackenzie Donaldson, 28, of Toronto, personally financed her first two short films.

It wasn't until she came on board in 2014 to produce the critically acclaimed web series Whatever, Linda, which follows secretaries running a Ponzi scheme in the 1970s, that she was able to access any third-party financing. Her next project, a feature-length film based on a Susan Swan novel, just received funding from Telefilm.

"That money just makes it so much easier to carve out the time (to work on the film), pay our writers. Now this project has a future," says Mackenzie, of Toronto. "Competition (for funding) is fierce, but raising up the young producers and filmmakers in this country is vital for the future of Canadian cinema. It's hugely important that money exists."

JENNIFER CRIGHTON ARTIST

KENNETH APPLEBY/METRO

Calgary-based Jennifer Crighton, 35, isn't a starving artist. But she's not exactly rolling in the dough. The musician and visual artist has a salaried job with the Calgary International Film Festival, but her art shows only pay $200 (which is not a lot considering how much work goes into creating her art), and music gigs inconsistently pay anywhere from $50 to $400.

But more funding at the federal level isn't necessarily going to change things, she says. Grants, one of the more common ways artist can access federal money, are difficult to get. What's more, the funds usually only pay for the artistic project itself, leaving little to line the creators' pockets.

"It's hard to make good work if you're worried about paying for it," she says. "The best way to make sure you're getting good work is to guarantee the artists' fees first."

KEATON LEIER DANCER

COURTESY STANISLAV BALYAEVSKY

Keaton Leier, a 19-year-old from Saskatoon, is in his final year of training at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School and looking for his next opportunity on the stage. He plans to pursue a career as a ballet dancer — a daunting task considering the limited spots in Canada or around the world. It's also not a particularly lucrative career. The majority of professional dancers earn less than $50,000, and that varies by company and position.

Training is expensive: the seven-year program costs more than $154,000.

Leier has received some federally funded scholarships over the years, but roughly 50 per cent of his financing comes from private donors. Increased federal funding could provide a sense of stability, he says, since private donors don't have to recommit year-over-year.

Overall, Leier is grateful for whatever money flows through the arts. "I wouldn't be the same dancer I am now if it weren't for these scholarships," he says.

A BREAKDOWN OF NEW FUNDS

WHAT WAS PROMISED

The Liberal party promised to reinvest in the CBC to the tune of $75 million additional funding in 2016, and up to $150 million in annual funding by 2017.

The Liberal government promised to double the budget for the Canadian Council of the arts, which provides grants to artists and musicians across Canada. It promised $90 million in 2016, and then an additional $180 million by 2017.

The Liberals also said they would provide $10 million in funding for international arts and cultural exchange programs for 2016, and then an additional $25 million in funding in 2017 and 2018.

During the campaign both Telefilm and the National Film Board, which fund Canadian cinema, were promised an additional $25 million annually between the two organizations.

WHAT THEY DELIVERED

The CBC saw its promised $75 million for 2016, and another $150 million for each year after until 2021.

The CCA will receive $40 million in 2016, and an additional $75 million in 2017. It won't be until 2020 that it sees its budget doubled. While this is less than what was promised, Simon Brault, CEO and director of the CCA, said a priority will remain on increasing opportunities for youth and indigenous voices in the arts community.

There will be $10 million in the first year for international exchanges, and $25 million in 2017. A focus for the funding will be on the upcoming Canada 150 celebration.

Telefilm will receive an additional $22 million divided over the next five years with $2 million this year, while the NFB will receive $13.5 million, with $1.5 million in 2016.

DID THE BUDGET MEET EXPECTATIONS?

"It's really pleasing to see after so many years of funding cuts, you have a government willing to make an investment in cultural creation. Our hope is some of it will be earmarked for Canadian original independent productions with Canadian talent." Elliott Anderson, acting director of public policy research and communication, ACTRA

"The (CCA's) budget will be doubled. It will take five years, as opposed to two, but it means the Canada Council can align its strategic plan over the next five years with the reinvestment by the government. It's a great day for the arts."
Simon Brault, CEO and director, Canada Council for the Arts

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ROSE REISMAN THE SAVVY EATER

THIS WEEK: Drink mixers

Trying to avoid excess calories when enjoying a drink? The classic gin and tonic is not the route to take.

PICK THIS

Gin and soda

Calories 151
Fat 0 g
Carbohydrates 0 g
Sugar 0 g

SKIP THIS

Gin and tonic

Calories 207
Fat 0 g
Carbohydrates 15 g
Sugar 14.3 g

HERE'S WHY

Equivalent in sugar to 7 Old Fashion Timbits

Club soda and tonic water are popular mixes for cocktails, and many of us assume that tonic water is similar to club soda in ingredients and nutrients. However, the bitter-tasting tonic water is more like other sugar-filled beverages, like pop. In fact, one glass of gin & tonic serves up as much sugar as seven Old Fashion Timbits in sugar. For a mix that's sugar-free, pick up club soda, which is just carbonated water. Bottoms up!

RECIPE

Spicy cold milk for hot Holi

This week Hindus celebrate Holi, the festival of colours most recognized worldwide by the sight of people throwing brightly coloured powders at each other. Thandai, a cold, spiced milk provides some relief to revellers when much of India is experiencing temperatures well past 30C.

Typically thandai contains "bhang," a form of cannabis, but we'll wait for the green light from Prime Minister Trudeau before we add that to the recipe. If you want a more legal buzz, try spiking it with vodka.

You can find melon seeds, more accurately the dried seeds of muskmelons, at Indian grocers under the name "magaz" or "char magaz" but if you can't find them, omit from the recipe.

Thandai is reminiscent of chai. KARON LUI/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Thandai

Makes 4 servings.

Ingredients:
- 1/2 cup ground almonds
- 1/4 cup water, plus more for thinning out drink
- 1 1/2 tsp black peppercorns
- 1 1/2 tsp ground ginger
- 1 Tbsp fennel seeds
- 2 Tbsp white poppy seeds
- 8 green cardamom pods
- 3 Tbsp melon seeds
- 10 shelled pistachios
- 1 1/2 cup whole milk
- 5 Tbsp granulated sugar
- 1 small pinch saffron strands
- Rose petals, for garnish
- Ice

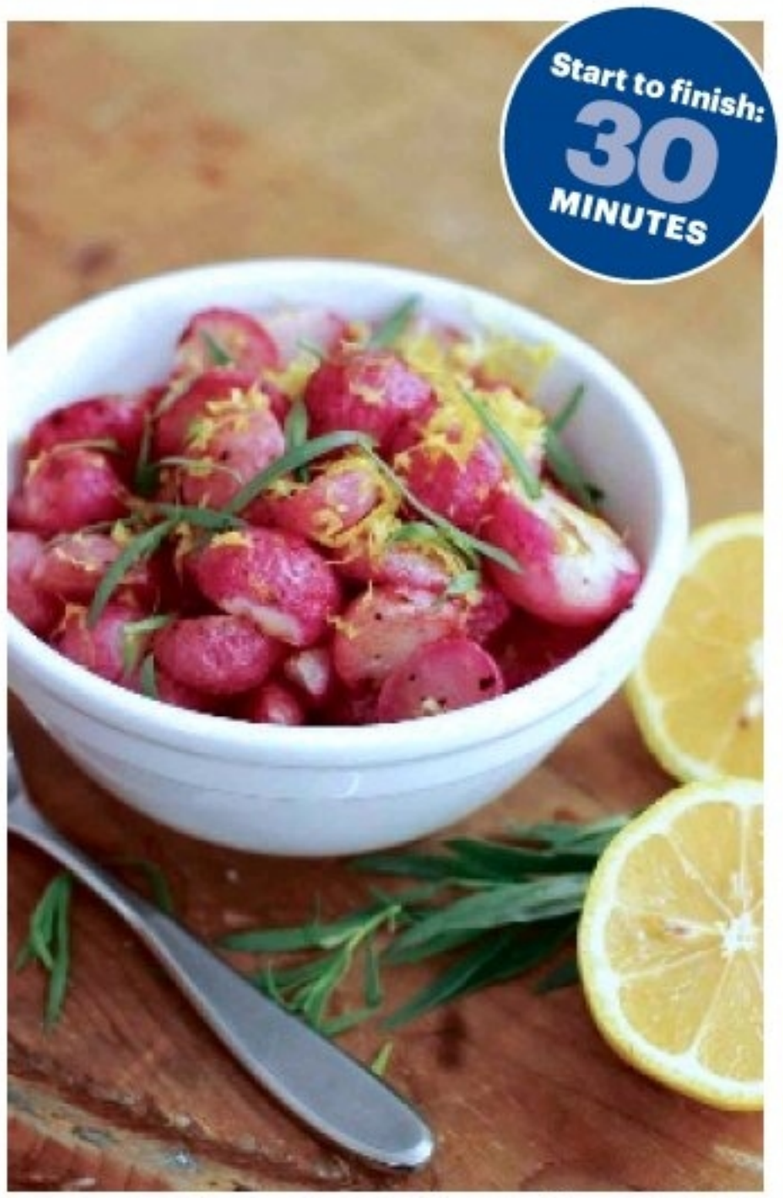
Directions:

1. In a small mixing bowl, whisk together ground almonds and water until a smooth paste forms. Set aside.

2. In a spice grinder, grind peppercorns, ginger, fennel seeds, poppy seeds, cardamom pods, melon seeds and pistachios into a fine powder. Set aside.

3. In a saucepan over medium heat, bring milk, sugar and saffron to a gentle simmer. Whisk until sugar has dissolved. Add ground spices and almond paste. Whisk until smooth. Strain with a fine mesh sieve if desired.

4. Pour into pitcher. Dilute with water to taste. Refrigerate till cold and serve over ice. Garnish with rose petals, if using. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Lemon zest and tarragon leaves add a surprising spring zing to Butter Roasted Radishes. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Radically delish roast radish dish

RECIPE

Sharp root veg takes on fresh spring taste that's perfect for Easter

Easter sides are depressingly predictable. There will be asparagus, of course. If you're lucky, there might even be three or four variations of asparagus. And there will be peas. And gratin potatoes. And probably some sort of salad that most people will only eat to be polite. Not that there's anything wrong with any of this.

It's just that it would be nice to offer something... different. So we'll help you with this one.

Try butter roasted radishes with tarragon and lemon. It's a simple dish that comes together in minutes, but has a wonderful flavour that is both rich and light and lemony — the perfect combination for spring.

Butter Roasted Radishes with Tarragon and Lemon

Servings: 6

Ingredients:
- 2 pounds radishes, halved
- 3 Tbsp butter, melted
- kosher salt and ground black pepper
- zest of 1 lemon
- 2 Tbsp chopped fresh tarragon

Directions:

1. Heat the oven to 375 F.

2. Pile the radish halves in the centre of a rimmed baking sheet. Drizzle with the butter and toss to coat. Sprinkle with salt and pepper.

3. Roast for 20 minutes, or until tender and lightly browned.

4. Arrange on a platter, then sprinkle with the lemon zest and tarragon.

5. Serve warm or at room temperature.

Nutritional info per serving:

80 calories; 50 calories from fat (63 per cent of total calories); 6 g fat (3.5 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 15 mg cholesterol; 220 mg sodium; 5 g carbohydrate; 2 g fibre; 3 g sugar; 1 g protein. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EASTER WINE

Chocolate bunny gets a sophisticated pairing

Easter is really the only time of the year I bite the bunny and purchase chocolate. And, I like to wash down my confections with a glass or two of vino.

When it comes to milk chocolate, something boozy or sweet or both make a great pairing. A tawny port or sweeter sherry share both qualities, while the nectar-like goodness of a dessert wine, like a French Sauternes, makes a decadent marriage.

For a more mainstream match try a white made with the Moscato grape and reds from Pinot Noir or old vines Zinfandel.

California's Meiomi 2013 Pinot Noir ($24.95 - $29.99) is a mouthful of rich, thick berry fruit with a creamy quality that not only charms chocolate, it's poultry and ham friendly, too if you can save any for Easter dinner.

PETER ROCKWELL/FOR METRO

Prices reflect the range across the country. Some products may not be available in all provinces.

FRENCH WINES

Vineyards hit by climate change

Climate change has pushed French wines into uncharted territory, and could force producers to relocate, or abandon the grapes that helped to make their vineyards famous, scientists said Monday.

Since 1980, growing conditions in northern climes such as Champagne and Burgundy, as well as in sun-drenched Bordeaux, have fundamentally changed the "harvest equation" that defined these storied regions, they reported in Nature Climate Change.

"For much of France, local climates have been relatively stable for hundreds or thousands of years," said Elizabeth Wolkovich, an assistant professor of evolutionary biology at Harvard University and co-author of the study.

"But that is shifting with climate change," she told AFP.

Many ingredients go into great winemaking: soil, grape variety, slope, exposure to the Sun, along with savoir faire in the vineyards and the cellar.

But exceptional vintages have historically also required an early harvest produced by abundant spring rains, hot summers, and a late-season drought.

Using meticulous records dating back to 1600, Wolkovich and Benjamin Cook, a climate scientist at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory in New York City and lead author of the study, and found harvest dates have moved up by two full weeks since 1980 compared to the average for the preceding 400 years. AFP

ONCE-IN-A-CENTURY VINTAGES

France's signature grapes face identity crisis

For France as a whole, temperatures have warmed by about 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) over the 20th century, and the mercury is still rising.

In the short term, that has produced some "grands millesimes," the French term for stand-out years.

For Bordeaux, 1990, 2005 and 2010 have all been described as once-a-century vintages, while in Burgundy 2005 and 2009 are said to hold exceptional promise.

But in the long run — measured in decades — these conditions may evolve into something far less favourable, the study warned.

"If we keep warming, the globe will reach a tipping point," said Wolkovich, pointing to what happened in 2003.

During that summer, the thermometer climbed past 40C (104F) on half-a-dozen days in the Bordeaux region in early August.

"That may be a good indicator of where we are headed," she added. "If we keep pushing the heat up, vineyards can't maintain that forever."

In France, signature grape varietals — pinot noir in Burgundy, and Merlot in Bordeaux — will no longer be as well-adapted.

French wines such as Champagne, Sauternes, Margaux or Saint-Emilion are grown only in authorized areas and according to rules about which grape varieties can be used in what proportions.

For many wine-makers, changing these rules is tantamount to changing the identity of the wine.

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REVIEW

New-gen Volt surprisingly simple to operate

Mike Goetz
For Metro Canada

The all-new Chevrolet Volt introduced for model-year 2016 is many kilometres better than its predecessor.

We can actually peg it to 20 kilometres better, as its potential all-electric kilometre range is now up to 80-ish, from 60-ish. Unlike other hybrids, the gas engine in the Volt is designed and designated as a "range extender" for the electric drivetrain. The gas engine is not directly engaged to the drive wheels. When the engine runs, it always turns a generator, which in turn sends electricity to the motor wheels directly, or to the battery, or both. In any scenario, the Volt is always being propelled by its electric motors.

It feels like Volt engineers went through much analysis and brain sweat, before deciding on the final size and power of the gas engine, battery pack, and electric motors, because each affects the other so much, and the resulting price point and electric performance of the eventual car.

Ultimately they came up with a 1.5-litre engine of "regular" sophistication that runs on regular gas, and an electric powertrain featuring an 18kWh battery pack with 192 cells, and two motors. The electric bits are considerably more powerful, and lighter, than their predecessors.

All this gives Volt noticeably more electric "jump" from a dead stop, and more electric range.

Combined with a body structure that is stronger and quieter, the combined effect is a Volt that is much more refined in feel and ride.

Volt can now seat five, instead of four, but the rear middle position is brutal. Up front it is decidedly better, with an all-new interface that does away with the previous irksome touchscreen.

Under electric mode the Volt is extremely quiet and quite powerful. The gas engine kicks in smoothly, but it doesn't add anything to the experience, acting as it is does on its own schedule, to keep supplying electrical juice. The main goodness of the Volt happens when it's operating in sole electric mode.

But overall, the Volt is impressive. With its bigger EV range, many more drivers can go petroleum-free for commutes, and Volt still gives you the option of using it for longer trips — an easy and satisfying way to transition to EV culture.

THE CHECKLIST | 2016 CHEVROLET VOLT

THE BASICS

Type. Five-door, FWD, compact hatchback
Power. 1.5-litre I4 with twin electric motors (149 combined hp)
Transmissions. One-speed electric automatic
Base price (not including PDI & Freight). $40,090

VOLT PHOTOS MIKE GOETZ/FOR METRO; ALL OTHERS HANDOUT

THE COMPETITION

Nissan Leaf
Base price: $32,698

BMW i3
Base price: $45,300

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Three-in-one a 'starting point'

ALUMINUM

Rolls-Royce drops weight

Known more for building five-tonne luxury limos than for being light-on-their-wheels, iconic Rolls-Royce Motor Cars is looking to lighten its vehicles' loads by developing a new aluminum space-frame architecture that it says will mark "the future of pure luxury motoring."

TEXT AND IMAGES BY WHEELBASE MEDIA

BUSINESS

Model X adds to Tesla sales

Despite a bumpy ride in 2015, Tesla sales continued to gain momentum with more than 50,000 units delivered. Fourth-quarter sales figures reveal 17,400 cars delivered, including units of the recently unveiled Model X electric tall wagon. Bear in mind that 50,000 units, while a seemingly big number, is far less than the number of Ford F-150 pickups built in just one month.

THE GREEN ANGLE

Metro's weekly picks for the latest in environmental news

IONIQ

'Bold ambition' at Hyundai

The first car designed from the ground up to offer one of three distinct, advanced powertrains in a single body will be its manufacturer's "starting point" for future mobility. The Ioniq hatchback sedan embodies Hyundai's "new thinking and bold ambitions" for mobility, said Ioniq project manager, Rag Jung. The full Ioniq range will offer buyers a choice of electric, plug-in hybrid and hybrid powertrains, which is a first for a single model. Despite the claim of class-leading efficiency, Hyundai says the Ioniq will also deliver spirited handling and driving pleasure, things for which not all hybrids are lauded. The company also says that the lithium-ion polymer battery delivers "outstanding charge and discharge performance, optimizing output from the high voltage motor."

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Putting the surprise back into the F1

RACING

Last season so predictable it was called 'boring'

The longest season in Formula One history also risks becoming its most extended test of patience if efforts to shake up the sport fall flat.

Last year was so predictable that even F1 supremo Bernie Ecclestone called it "boring," while runaway winner Lewis Hamilton agreed the crisis-prone sport was "broken."

With a record 21 races in 2016, organizers have been searching hard for ways to boost flagging viewing figures for a series which is too often dominated by one team.

The nightmare scenario another parade for Mercedes, whose drivers Hamilton and Nico Rosberg won 16 of the 19 grands prix last year and only missed pole position once.

Pre-season testing in which Mercedes clocked 6,024 kilometres, nearly a third more than their closest rivals Ferrari, cast a sense of foreboding over last week's season start in Melbourne, where Rosberg took the top position again for Mercedes.

Chief among the innovations is a much-debated new qualifying format, which steadily eliminates cars one by one and finishes in a top-two shoot-out.

But the new system doesn't look like it will have much impact on the quickest drivers, with Rosberg admitting last week he had not even bothered to look at it. One fear is that it will introduce even more complexity to a sport already heavy on technicalities. AFP

Bernie Ecclestone, Formula One chief executive, poses for a selfie. AFP

SAFETY

U.S. makes deal on emergency brakes

Automatic emergency braking systems help prevent crashes or diminish their severity. SHUTTERSTOCK

U.S. traffic safety authorities announced Thursday a voluntary deal with automakers to make automatic emergency braking a standard feature on new cars within the next seven years.

The commitment by 20 automakers, representing more than 99 per cent of the U.S. auto market, will make the safety technology a standard feature on cars and light trucks no later than late 2022, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) said.

It will become standard on heavier trucks three years later.

Automatic emergency braking (AEB) systems help prevent crashes or diminish their severity by applying the brakes for the driver.

Sensors including radar, cameras and lasers warn the driver of an impending crash, and the brakes engage when the driver fails to take sufficient and timely action to prevent it.

Automakers that agreed to the commitment are Audi, BMW, FCA US, Ford, General Motors, Honda, Hyundai, Jaguar Land Rover, Kia, Maserati, Mazda, Mercedes-Benz, Mitsubishi Motors, Nissan, Porsche, Subaru, Tesla Motors, Toyota, Volkswagen and Volvo Car USA.

"By proactively making emergency braking systems standard equipment on their vehicles, these 20 automakers will help prevent thousands of crashes and save lives," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx in a statement.

"It's a win for safety and a win for consumers."

The head of the NHTSA, Mark Rosekind, sought to deflect criticism of the voluntary nature of the commitment, saying it would make AEB standard on new cars three years faster than a regulatory process. According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, the accelerated process will prevent some 28,000 crashes and 12,000 injuries.

"A commitment of this magnitude is unprecedented, and it will bring more safety to more Americans sooner," Rosekind said.

In January, a group of consumer advocates petitioned the NHTSA to seek a mandatory AEB standard rather than a corporate pledge. AFP

metro SPORTS

Georgia's Dominique Wilkins and Doug Collins of Illinois State will be inducted into the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame this fall

TERROR IN BELGIUM

Brussels attacks put fear in football

Belgium's national soccer team called off a practice session in Brussels on Tuesday after the city was hit by what authorities are calling terror attacks.

"Our thoughts are with the victims. Football is not important today," the Belgian soccer federation wrote in a Twitter message. "Training cancelled."

Belgium will host Portugal in a friendly match next Tuesday at the King Baudouin Stadium in Brussels, where the practice was scheduled. The game is a warmup for this year's European Championship.

Belgium captain Vincent Kompany wrote on Twitter that he was "horrified and revolted" by the attacks.

"I wish for Brussels to act with dignity. We are all hurting, yet we must reject hate and its preachers. As hard as it may be," Kompany wrote.

Three explosions early Tuesday at the Brussels airport and the Maelbeek metro station near European Union offices have been called terror attacks by Belgian authorities.

One international soccer player was at the Zavantem airport where two explosions were reported. Norwich forward Dieumerci Mbokani, who is from Congo, was "unharmed but shaken by the tragic events," the English club said in a statement.

Mbokani was visiting family in Brussels, where he played for Anderlecht for two seasons until 2013. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

10,000

Organizers announced last month that about 10,000 people had been privately hired for security for this Summer's European Championship in France.

MLB HAVANA GAME BRINGS U.S.-CUBA TOGETHER In a landmark game attended by presidents Barack Obama and Raul Castro, the Tampa Bay Rays beat the Cuban national team 4-1 Tuesday in the first visit by a major league team to the island since 1999. GETTY IMAGES

TERROR IN BELGIUM

NBA icon Mutombo survives unscathed

NBA Hall of Famer Dikembe Mutombo was at the Brussels airport during a deadly terrorist attack early Tuesday.

Mutombo posted two messages on his Facebook page to let everyone know he was not injured. The Atlanta Hawks confirmed that he was in Belgium when the terrorists struck at both the airport and on a subway, killing at least 34 people and wounding scores.

Mutombo posted one photo showing people walking around outside the airport, accompanied by the message, "God is good. I am in Brussels Airport with this craziness. I am fine." He followed with a selfie and another message, "Thank you everyone. I am safe here. God is good." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPORTS AND POLITICS

New York state approves mixed martial arts

New York's Assembly voted 113-25 Tuesday to legalize mixed martial arts, clearing the way for fights late this year and expanding the combat sport into the last state to still prohibit it.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo supports legalizing the combination of wrestling, kickboxing and judo. But critics call MMA too violent and like football and boxing prone to causing concussions and head injuries. Advocates say it has evolved from rougher early days with more rules to protect fighters, who are trained professionals.

"What we seek to do is essentially take the sport out of the shadows in New York," said assemblyman Joseph Morelle, the lead sponsor before the bill was overwhelmingly approved in a big win for the UFC, the leading organizing body for MMA globally. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada keeps it cool as ice thins on rivals

CURLING

It's heavy but Carey and co. double up Italy and Germany

Canada third Amy Nixon, left, and Chelsea Carey speak during Tuesday's early game. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada's greatest opponent is proving to be the ice it plays on.

Chelsea Carey won a tense game for a 5-4 victory over Italy's Federica Apollonio on Tuesday afternoon in Draw 10 of the women's curling world championship, hours after beating Germany's Daniela Driendl.

Carey (6-1) said after the second game that dropping temperatures outside and the humidity from all the fans in the stands at the Credit Union iPlex made the ice difficult to play on.

"It's just too heavy, it's just so heavy and frosty," said Carey of the ice. "In the mornings it's great, like this morning was wonderful, the ice was fantastic. It's really conducive, it's what you'd expect.

"It's tough here. It must be the weather and the crowds. The crowds are fantastic but all those people in the building heats everything up and the frost just creeps in."

Apollonio's rink (0-6) offered handshakes in the 10th end after missing a takeout when their last stone slowed up.

"It was a little bit of a struggle out there today," said second Jocelyn Peterman. "But we pulled it off so we're happy.

"The ice was just a little heavier than we're used to. It was a struggle in all senses. There was a lot of sweeping."

The heavy ice conditions made its presence felt almost immediately as Carey came up short on a draw attempt in the first end, but Canada was sitting single for an early 1-0 lead.

"I looked like a fool in the first end," said Carey. "I threw it exactly how we wanted me to and I looked like an idiot because I came up 10 feet short. That's really hard to deal with mentally."

Italy replied with a single of its own in the second but the Canadians reclaimed the lead with a point in the third. Apollonio hit for a single in the fourth to keep it 2-2, then Carey didn't put enough weight behind her takeout in the fifth end for a 3-2 Italian lead at the break.

Carey blanked in the sixth end to keep the hammer, then drew in to score a deuce in the seventh to take a 4-3 lead. A blank by Italy in the eighth maintained the Canadian lead and with a single in the ninth Apollonio tied it 4-4.

Earlier in the day, Carey's Calgary-based rink took advantage of steals in the seventh and eighth ends to pull away from Germany (3-3).

Canada opened with a single in the first end, but Driendl replied with an easy draw in the second to tie the game. The teams blanked the third end and Carey added a single in the fourth to take a 2-1 lead.

Driendl threw a takeout in the fifth end for three points but Carey replied with a deuce in the sixth to tie it 4-4.

Canada stole a point in the seventh when Germany missed on a takeout attempt.

Driendl's woes continued in the eighth end when she hit a guard on her final rock, giving Canada another steal.

Germany used a light tap to cut into Canada's lead in the ninth end, but that handed Carey the hammer to close out the game. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian receiver turns NFL, CFL heads at pro day

FOOTBALL

Tevaun Smith's 4.33 time in 40 just one of many fine stats

Vince Magri knew Tevaun Smith was quick, he just didn't realize the Iowa Hawkeyes receiver was lightning-fast.

The Toronto-born Smith raised eyebrows Monday at Iowa's pro day with a 40-yard dash time of 4.33 seconds. That would have left Smith tied for third at the NFL combine — Georgia running back Keith Marshall's 4.31 seconds was tops — and would have made him the fastest player at this month's CFL combine, topping the 4.51-second mark recorded by Queen's receiver Doug Corby.

"To be honest, the 4.33 surprised me," said Magri, the Toronto Argonauts' Canadian scouting co-ordinator who attended the Iowa session. "We knew he was quick. We anticipated him being a 4.40 guy, but 4.33 is elite.

"He definitely helped himself in the NFL. I know a lot of teams there definitely sat up and took notice after they checked their stopwatches."

Smith wasn't invited to the NFL combine in February and didn't attend the CFL combine.

Tevaun Smith is one of the top prospects for the May 10 CFL draft. MATTHEW HOLST/GETTY IMAGES

In December, the CFL scouting bureau ranked the six-foot 205-pound Smith as the top prospect for the May 10 draft. His performance Monday should have enhanced that standing but Canadian teams can only wait and see if Smith,who battled knee injuries last season, heads to the NFL as a player taken in the April 28-30 draft or a priority free agent afterwards.

> **He definitely helped himself in the NFL (evaluations).**
> Toronto Argonauts' scouting director Vince Magri

Gil Brandt, the former Dallas Cowboys vice-president of player personnel now working as the NFL Media senior analyst, wrote "Smith had a great workout, and will be a drafted player."

Smith showed Monday he's more than just a speed merchant.

With all 32 NFL teams as well as the Argos, Montreal Alouettes and Ottawa Redblacks present, Smith registered a 38-inch vertical jump, 3.94-second shuttle and 6.56-second three-cone, bench-pressed 225 pounds 13 times and had a broad jump of 10 feet two inches.

Smith would have finished second in the three-cone drill and third in the shuttle at the NFL combine.

"I think he may have helped himself get drafted," Magri said. "With his body of work, his hands and route-running and now you add those measurables that I believe would have put him in the top three in almost every category in the NFL combine ... he ran very well, jumped extremely well, looked explosive."

Smith was Iowa's second-leading receiver last season with 563 yards on 32 catches (third-most on squad) with three touchdowns in 12 games, 10 as a starter. He was one of seven true freshmen to see action in 2012 and finished his college career with 102 receptions for 1,500 yards (14.7-yard average) and seven TDs.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Jays oust Tigers' Norris

Tigers starter Daniel Norris exited because of tightness in his lower back after getting just one out and Toronto Blue Jays went on to beat Detroit 16-1 Tuesday.

He gave up three runs on three hits and two walks.

Troy Tulowitzki homered and drove in five runs. Darrell Ceciliani also homered for Toronto.

Blue Jays starter Drew Hutchison gave up one run in four innings.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFLers chipped for data

NFL teams soon will be breaking down a whole new set of stats.

The information from the Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) chips players wore during the 2015 season will be available to teams in May.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL bans chop block

The chop block has been entirely outlawed from NFL games, and extra-point kicks snapped from the 15-yard line are now permanent.

NFL owners voted Tuesday to approve both those proposals by the competition committee. They also passed a resolution to expand what is a horse-collar tackle to cover the nameplate on the back of jerseys.

In all, seven rule proposals were approved.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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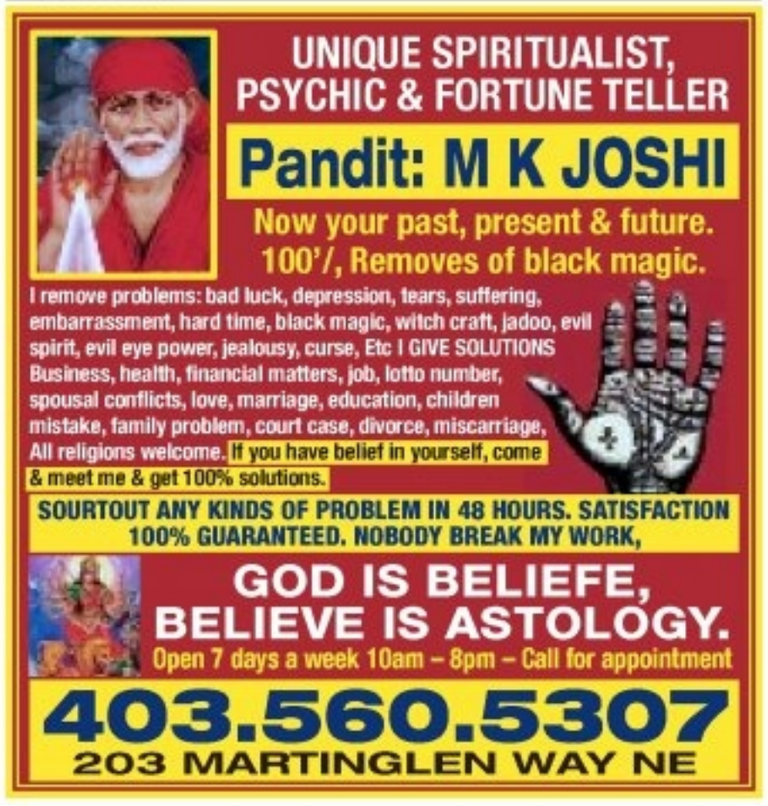

FINANCIAL

RECIPE Vegetarian Tostados

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Once you have the basics of this recipe down, feel free to freestyle the toppings with whatever you like (or, let's be honest, what's on hand).

Ready in
Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 15 minutes

Ingredients
- 1 x 14 oz can black beans, rinsed
- 1/4 cup cilantro, roughly chopped
- 1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil, plus more for brushing
- 1 clove garlic, slicedy chopped
- cilantro plus 1/8 cup for garnish
- 1 lime, juiced
- pinch of salt
- 8 corn tortillas
- 1 ear of corn of fresh corn or 1 cup frozen
- 2 cups shredded iceberg lettuce
- 3/4 cup Monterey Jack cheese, grated
- 1/4 cup sour cream

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 425. In a food processor, place beans, oil, lime juice, garlic, cilantro and salt. Blend until mixture reaches the consistency of hummus. Remove from processor and spoon into a small bowl.

2. Boil corn until cooked. Remove from water and allow to cool a few minutes. Cut kernels from ear. Place in a bowl. Place shredded lettuce, shaved cheese, chopped cilantro and sour cream in various small bowls.

3. Lightly brush each tortilla with olive oil on each side and bake in oven on a cookie sheet for about 7 minutes. Remove and serve immediately.

4. Place tortilla on plate and layer with black bean dip, lettuce, cheese and corn. Feel free to free style this dish with additional toppings like peppers, tomatoes and slices of avocado.

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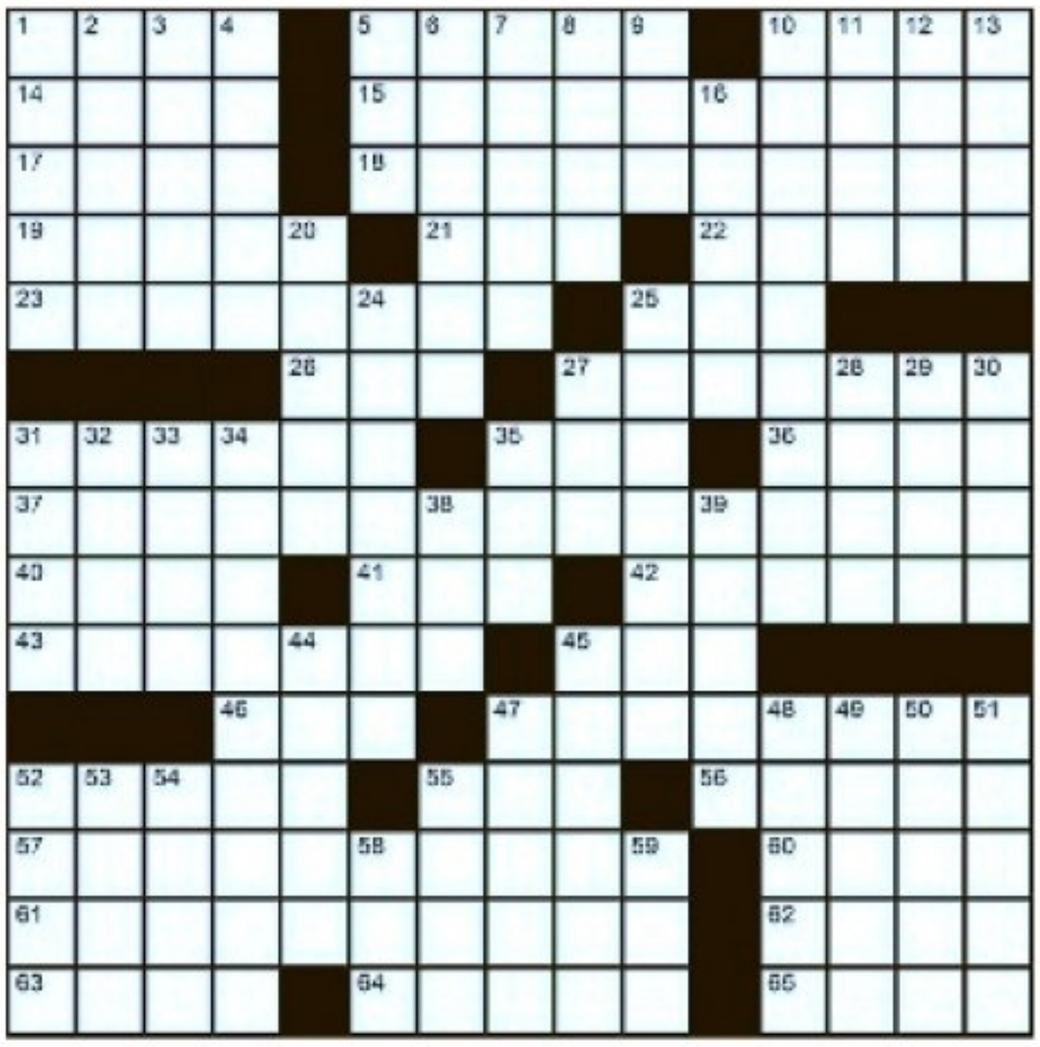
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Researcher's helper, briefly
5. Rover
10. Tina Turner's "Better Be Good __"
14. Ms. Buzzi of comedy
15. Destroyer
17. Beatles hit bit: "...goodbye and _ _ hello..."
18. Craft in Niagara-on-the-Lake in Ontario that's really 'grape'
19. Mitten part
21. _ rummy
22. Long-looking squares, briefly
23. Offshore oil platform in the Jeanne d'Arc Basin of Newfoundland's Grand Banks
25. Dharma's portrayer on "Dharma & Greg" ...her initials-sharers
26. "I got an '_' _ the exam!" (I'm smart!)
27. Electronics giant of Japan
31. Chanel No. 5, par exemple
35. Form of stage show in Japan
36. Car rental company
37. Acred attraction in Winnipeg: 2 wds.
40. Saint Lawrence, et al.
41. Have a _ to pick
42. Buys
43. High Renaissance painter of Sistine Madonna
45. French for 'me'
46. Compass point
47. BC: Scottish-born industrialist who had Victoria landmark Craigdarroch Castle built for his family, Robert _ (b.1825 - d.1889)
52. Mr. Sharif's
55. Beaver State [abbr.]
56. Fashion mag
57. Frozen layer of ground as in the Arctic
60. Dog breeds, e.g.
61. Vatican VIP's vehicle
62. Chill
63. Hans Christian Andersen creature
64. Gain admittance: 2 wds.
65. Roger of "Cheers"

DOWN
1. It has its pluses and minuses, briefly
2. Seaweed-wrapped appetizer
3. Baseball great Rusty
4. Herb variety
5. Novel
6. Dawn
7. 'Beatle' suffix
8. Toronto-born actor Mr. Young
9. Shadowy
10. Form: 2 wds.
11. Relating to the ear
12. State bordering Sask.
13. Work units
16. Doesn't disregard
20. Electric shavers name
24. Potential Juno Award winner
25. 'J' of LBJ
27. Parisian pronoun
28. John, Russia-style
29. Nest dweller
30. Questions
31. Henry VIII outliver Catherine
32. "Sole Survivor" band
33. Inviter's request
34. Seafood suppliers
35. Negative word
38. Cartoonist Mr. Keane
39. Church goer, e.g.
44. Type of tea from India
45. Morningtime mixture
47. Legal right
48. Grinding tooth
49. Hydro bill factor
50. Permeate
51. Romantic flowers
52. Night-and-Day and Cold-and-Hot, e.g.
53. Woof's counterpart
54. Harp, in Italy
55. Iron Maiden's "Be Quick __ Dead"
58. "House of Sand and _" (2003)
59. Commandments number

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Today you will strive to find a balance in everything you do, especially with work or your health. From here on, things will get better. Factoid.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
After the Full Moon peaks this morning, you will feel more in control of your life. You also will feel a balance between fun plans and your ability to make them a reality.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Relations with others will improve after the Full Moon peaks this morning. You feel better between loyalty to partners and your home and family.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
The tension of today's Full Moon will subside after it peaks this morning. You will see an improvement in all your communications with others — no question.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Take it easy today to avoid accidents. However, your financial situation is looking better and better, isn't it? Good for you.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Financial disputes will calm down after this morning. This is just one example of how you are starting to feel a balance between your home obligations and your personal freedom.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You will feel better after the Full Moon peaks this morning. You will also have a better direction and a better idea about your future plans.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Tension on the work front will relax after the Full Moon peaks this morning. Ultimately, you feel an increasing confidence in your financial future and your ability to earn money. Bravo!

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Difficulties with friends will subside after the Full Moon peaks this morning. In fact, your relations with everyone — especially authority figures — will move to a more solid footing.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You will feel calmer after the Full Moon peaks this morning. In fact, future travel plans or plans regarding further education look doable and even sensible. Yay!

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Life will be easier after the Full Moon peaks this morning. You can breathe a sigh of relief because you see that you have the support of others, which is what you really wanted.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Financial tensions will diminish after the Full Moon peaks this morning. Your ambition to make a name for yourself looks much more doable. You have faith in your future!

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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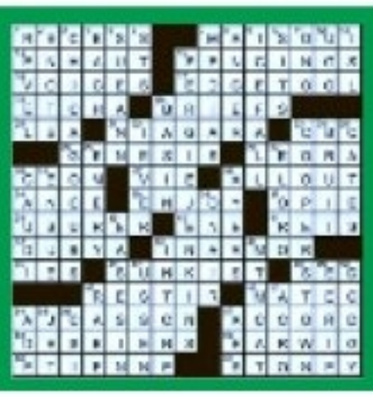
YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

for more fun and games go to metronews.ca/games



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3	1	9	4	8	2	7	5	6
2	5	4	1	6	7	8	3	9
7	6	8	3	5	9	1	4	2

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